

Iraqi Parliament: Expel foreign troops

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Parliament called for the expulsion of U.S. forces from the country in reaction to the American drone attack that killed a top Iranian general, raising the prospect of a troop withdrawal that could cripple the battle against the Islamic State and allow a resurgence of the extremists.

Lawmakers approved a resolution asking the Iraqi government to end the agreement under which Washing-

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President issues online warning to Iran against retaliation for airstrike on Soleimani

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ton sent troops more than four years ago to help fight ISIS. The bill is non-binding and subject to approval by the Iraqi government but has the backing of the departing prime minister.

But the vote was another sign of the blowback from the U.S. airstrike Friday that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and a number of top Iraqi officials at the Baghdad airport. Soleimani was the architect of Iran's proxy wars across the Mideast and was blamed for the deaths of hundreds of Americans in roadside bombings and other attacks.

Speaking to lawmakers in Parlia-

ment, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said that after the killing of Soleimani, the government has two choices: End the presence of foreign troops in Iraq or restrict their mission to training Iraqi forces.

"As a prime minister and supreme commander of the armed forces, I call for adopting the first choice," Abdul-Mahdi said.

Abdul-Mahdi resigned last year in response to the anti-government protests that have engulfed Baghdad and the mostly Shiite southern provinces.

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KENYA

Key base used by US forces overrun

By ABDI GULED, TOM ODULA
AND CARA ANNA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Al-Shabab extremists overran a key military base used by U.S. counterterrorism forces in Kenya before dawn Sunday, destroying U.S. aircraft and vehicles, Kenyan authorities said. It was the al-Qaida-linked group's first attack against U.S. forces in the East African country, and the military called the security situation "fluid" several hours after the assault.

Five attackers were killed and the assault has been contained, said Kenyan military spokesman Paul Njuguna.

It was not yet clear whether any U.S. or Kenyan forces were killed. A U.S. Africa Command statement, issued after al-Shabab released photos of blazing aircraft, said "an accountability of personnel assessment is underway" and the Manda Bay airfield was "still in the process of being fully secured." Kenya's military said four attackers were dead.

Al-Shabab, based in neighboring Somalia, claimed responsibility and asserted that combat with U.S. forces resulted in 17 U.S. "casualties," nine Kenyan soldiers killed and seven aircraft destroyed.

The U.S. statement called al-Shabab claims exaggerated.

Kenya is a key base for fighting one of the world's most resilient extremist organizations. A plume of black smoke rose above the airfield Sunday after residents said a car bomb had exploded. Lamu county commissioner Irungu Macharia told The Associated

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FACES

2019 was record year for women in the director's chair

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MILITARY

US military retiree banned from bases in South Korea for excessive duty-free purchases

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Vogue Italia drops photos for sustainable issue

Associated Press

ROME — Vogue Italia has produced its first issue of the new year and decade with an eye on sustainability, substituting fashion illustrations for photographs in an effort to reduce the environmental impact associated with staging fashion photoshoots around the globe.

Editor-in-chief Emanuele Farneti said the January issue was believed to be the first time a Vogue magazine has gone photo-less

since photography was invented. In his editorial, Farneti said the initiative was part of Vogue's new environmentally focused mission statement.

Farneti said Vogue Italia's September issue, typically Vogue's biggest of the year, showed how large a fashion magazine's carbon footprint really is and what was conserved for this month's production.

"One hundred and fifty people involved. About twenty flights and a dozen or so train journeys.

Forty cars on standby. Sixty international deliveries. Lights switched on for at least 10 hours nonstop, partly powered by gasoline-fueled generators. Food waste from the catering services. Plastic to wrap the garments. Electricity to recharge phones, cameras," he wrote.

Vogue Italia's January issue features eight different illustrated covers that involved no travel and articles about clothes that are "reborn" from scrap fabric and hand-me-downs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	
Euro costs (Jan. 6)	\$1.1425		0.9713
Dollar buys (Jan. 6)	68.8753	Thailand (Baht)	30.15
British pound (Jan. 6)	\$1.36	Turkey (Lira)	5.9771
Japanese yen (Jan. 6)	107.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (Jan. 6)	1,130.00		
Commercial rates		INTEREST RATES	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Prime rate	4.75
British pound	\$1.3080	Discount rate	2.25
Canada (Dollar)	1.2899	Federal funds market rate	1.55
China (Yuan)	6.9662	3-month bill	1.50
Denmark (Krone)	6.6259	30-year bond	2.34
Egypt (Pound)	16.0403		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1166/0.8956		
Hungary (Forint)	7.7780		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4577		
Japan (Yen)	108.21		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3031		
Norway (Krone)	8.8199		
Philippines (Peso)	51.09		
Poland (Zloty)	3.80		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7521		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3483		
South Korea (Won)	1,165.34		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

Russian ally Belarus considers NATO drills

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The top military official in Belarus says his country, a closely tied Russian ally, is open to conducting joint military exercises with NATO.

Belarus defense chief Oleg Belokonev recently told local media his country should be regarded in similar terms as Serbia — a country with close ties to Russia but one with a military training connection to NATO.

"Belarus is ready for joint exercises with NATO. There are talks on possible formats," Belokonev told Nasha Niva newspaper. "But we will agree on this if NATO understands that Russia is our strategic ally."

Belokonev was responding to a question about whether Belarus' relationship with NATO should resemble that of Serbia.

The idea of upgraded ties between Minsk and NATO comes amid signs of tension between Russia and Belarus, which serves as a Russian territorial buffer between NATO.

This week, Russia halted oil deliveries to Belarus over contract problems, Russian state media reported Friday. The two coun-



Belarus Ministry of Defense

Belarus military members exit an Mi-8 helicopter during a training exercise. Belarus defense chief Oleg Belokonev said his country is open to participating in joint exercises with NATO.

tries also have been at odds over payments for weapons systems.

In 2019, Belarus also angered Russia when it refused to play host to a Russian air base in the country.

On Dec. 20, Belarus' authoritarian leader, Alexander Lukash-

enko, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg to discuss deeper economic ties. The Associated Press reported. The meeting drew a rare protest of about 1,000 people in Minsk, who held up signs that said "First Crimea, then Belarus" and "Stop

Annexation!"

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, which has led to continued conflict between the two nations and heightened tensions on NATO's eastern border.

The U.S. has begun to seek out

closer ties with Belarus in the meantime. In August, former Secretary of State John Bolton made a visit to the former Soviet state — the highest-level American official to visit the country in years.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had planned to visit Belarus and other central Asian countries this month but canceled the trip after the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

While Belarus is a member of NATO's partnership for peace program, to date that has mainly involved smaller activities, such as military officials taking part in courses with NATO members.

"Belarusian personnel are attending courses in NATO countries and practical cooperation is being developed in areas such as civil preparedness, crisis management, arms control and scientific cooperation," a NATO official said under customary condition of anonymity Thursday.

Meanwhile, Belokonev told Belarusian media that it also is considering taking part in international "peacekeeping exercises" that could involve training with Italian forces.

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Army turns to personality testing to find better job fits for recruits

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Army is experimenting with a new way to get recruits into jobs they'll be good at once they pull on a uniform.

A pilot program, slated to run for three years, will gauge the effectiveness of assigning recruits to jobs based on personality testing along with standard vocational aptitude tests, according to an Army statement issued Wednesday.

The "Tailored Adaptive Personality Assessment System," which includes 120 questions, aims to predict recruits' future performance, behaviors, attitude and attrition rates. Officials didn't

mention when the pilot program began but said the test had been used since 2009 to collect data on individuals already entering military occupational specialties.

"The pilot program is designed to see how the Army can get best-fit recruits, even in jobs that require slightly higher standardized test scores than the applicant achieved," officials said in the release.

The new test will not compromise Army standards, according to Tonia Heffner, selection and assignment research unit chief at the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

"Anyone who enlists must meet

standards," she said in the statement, adding that those include things such as drug and alcohol screening and a criminal background check.

Individuals with higher motivation adapt better to the Army and have fewer disciplinary incidents, Heffner said.

"Those who will enlist through the pilot program will be more qualified than what their cognitive test score says," she said. "There will be lower attrition for the people in the pilot program and they will outperform many of their peers. This is increasing the overall quality of the Army."

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ALUN THOMAS/U.S. Army

Future soldiers recite the oath of enlistment during a ceremony at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., on Dec. 1. The Army is experimenting with a program to find better job fits for recruits.

Navy helicopter airlifts ill cruise ship passenger to Hawaii hospital

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A Navy helicopter airlifted a 69-year-old cruise ship passenger to Hawaii's Big Island for medical treatment on New Year's Day.

The male passenger, who was experiencing "abdominal distress," was hoisted from the Grand Princess, which was about 210 miles northwest of Hawaii Island, the Navy said in a statement Thursday. He was taken to Hilo Medical Center, which was not able to provide the man's condition on Thursday.

The MH-60R Seahawk helicopter crew conducted the medevac while a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane provided overhead support. The Navy helicopter is part of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37, which is based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu.

The Coast Guard received a report at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday that the passenger was experiencing abdominal problems. A Coast Guard flight surgeon consulted with the medical staff aboard the Grand Princess and agreed that the man should be medically evacuated, the statement said.

The Grand Princess diverted toward Hawaii Island as the Seahawk and Hercules aircrews launched their responses.

Upon arriving on the scene, the Hercules aircrew provided communications and cover overhead while the Seahawk crew conducted the hoist.

The Coast Guard requested the assistance of the Navy Seahawk because of its long-range capabilities, the statement said.

"The Coast Guard and the Navy often work together during search and rescue operations in the Pacific," Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig Howarth, a Coast Guard

Sector Honolulu watchstander, said in the statement. "Depending on the situation, the long-range capabilities of the Navy Seahawk aircrews with our Hercules aircrews in support is the quickest means of getting a patient to the higher level of medical care."

The 950-foot-long Grand Princess is owned by Princess Cruises. At the time it was built in 1998, it was the biggest and most expensive passenger ship ever made. It carries a crew of 1,100 and has the capacity to carry 3,100 passengers.

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MILITARY

Military retiree banned from bases in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. military retiree has been banned from bases in South Korea over allegations of buying excessive duty-free goods and black marketing, officials said Friday.

The move came nearly four months after U.S. Forces Korea, the main command on the peninsula, lifted monthly commissary purchase limits and eased other shopping restrictions intended to prevent such infractions.

The retiree, who lives in South Korea but was not otherwise identified, was banned Dec. 10 from all U.S. military installations and facilities in (South Korea)

for 10 years, for excessive purchasing of duty free goods and black marketing," according to a post on the Camp Humphreys Facebook page.

It reminded USFK personnel, including military, civilians, retirees, widows and dependents, that violations of the regulation governing access to duty-free goods may result in a suspension or revocation of the privilege.

"The individual making excessive purchases from the Commissary/Exchange need not profit from the act for it to be a violation," it added.

"Duty-free purchase privileges may be revoked or suspended if you or your dependent is involved in black marketing, the wrongful transfer of duty-free goods,

or purchases in excess of personal needs," the garrison said.

Humphreys garrison spokesman Steven Hoover confirmed the retiree was a man but said he couldn't immediately provide more details.

Patrons in South Korea had long been required to present ID or ration cards before being allowed to enter base commissaries and exchanges.

The change implemented in mid-September removed the entrance checks, although customers are still required to show IDs to cashiers before purchasing anything.

The new policy also lifted limits on the amount of goods service members and their families could buy each month —

previously \$800 for the main sponsor and \$300 for additional family members.

However, restrictions on alcohol sales remained as USFK sought to prevent black market trade of goods sold on base.

The previous policy began in August 2013 after the U.S. military faced rampant problems with goods purchased from base facilities being resold on the local market.

In one of the most notorious cases, a store manager and a South Korean businessman were convicted in 2003 of smuggling some 62,000 cases of wine and beer through a tunnel dug under a U.S. military housing compound in Seoul.

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Kenya: Al-Shabab spokesman says attack on base not related to US airstrike in Iraq

FROM FRONT PAGE

Press that five suspects were arrested and were being interrogated.

An internal Kenya police report seen by the AP said two fixed-wing aircraft, a U.S. Cessna and a Kenyan one, were destroyed along with two U.S. helicopters and multiple U.S. vehicles at the Manda Bay military airstrip. The report said explosions were heard at around 5:30 a.m. from the direction of the airstrip. The scene, now secured, indicated that al-Shabab likely entered "to conduct targeted attacks," the report said.

The U.S. military said only that "initial reports reflect damage to infrastructure and equipment." The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority said the airstrip was closed for all operations.

Al-Shabab's statement included photos of blazing aircraft it as-

serted were from the attack. A second al-Shabab claim, issued hours later, asserted that "intense close-quarters combat" against U.S. forces continued.

The military's Camp Simba in Lamu county, established more than a decade ago, has under 100 U.S. personnel, according to Pentagon figures. U.S. forces at the Manda Bay airfield train and give counterterrorism support to East African partners, according to the military. A U.S. flag-raising at the camp in August signaled its change "from tactical to enduring operations," the Air Force said at the time.

According to another internal Kenya police report seen by the AP, dated Friday, a villager that day said he had spotted 11 suspected al-Shabab members entering Lamu's Boni forest, which the extremists have used as a hideout. The report said Kenyan authori-

ties did not find them.

The latest attack comes just over a week after an al-Shabab truck bomb in Somalia's capital killed at least 79 people and U.S. airstrikes killed seven al-Shabab fighters in response.

The early Sunday attack comes days after a U.S. airstrike killed Iran's top military commander and Iran vowed retaliation, but al-Shabab is a Sunni Muslim group and there is no sign of links to Shiite Iran or proxies.

"No, this attack was no way related to that incident" in the Middle East, an al-Shabab spokesman told the AP. He spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

When asked whether the U.S. military was looking into any Iranian link to the attack, U.S. Africa Command spokesman Col. Christopher Kams said only that "al-Shabab, affiliated with al-Qaida,



LEXIE WEST, U.S. Air Force/AP

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Sidney Dellinger and Staff Sgt. Corey Smith perform flag detail during an August ceremony signifying the change from tactical to enduring operations at Camp Simba, Manda Bay, Kenya. The al-Shabab extremist group said Sunday that it attacked the base used by U.S. and Kenyan troops.

has their own agenda and have made clear their desire to attack U.S. interests."

The al-Shabab claim of responsibility said Sunday's attack was part of its "Jerusalem never

be Judaized" campaign, a rarely made reference that also was used after al-Shabab's deadly attack on a luxury mall complex in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in January 2019.

How contractors using shell companies duped the Pentagon

By DAVID VOREACOS
AND NEIL WEINBERG
Bloomberg

Shell companies have come under attack for obscuring illicit money flowing into real estate. Initial turns out they're also a problem for the Pentagon.

Some Defense Department suppliers have used such front companies to fraudulently win manufacturing bids, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office study of Defense Department contractors.

In some cases, the shell companies helped contractors obscure that they were making U.S. military equipment abroad, the GAO said, posing a risk to national security and quality control. More often, they were used to win contracts meant for companies owned by disabled veterans or minorities, it said.

The government watchdog reviewed 32 cases that made their

way to criminal prosecutions or lawsuits between 2012 and 2018. Taken together, they illustrate how the Pentagon's \$350 billion in annual contracting can be gamed using companies that exist largely on paper.

The problem could be far bigger, since the GAO's study wasn't intended to gauge a Europe. The watchdog said the Pentagon had made only spotty efforts to pierce the secrecy of shell companies.

"I don't think anybody really knows the extent of the problem," said Robert Burton, a former top government procurement attorney now at Crowell & Moring. "I do know that some of these folks have become quite proficient at disguising ownership."

Although shell companies have many legitimate uses, they've also become an invaluable tool allowing terrorists, money launderers, human traffickers and tax cheats to evade detection.

Even as countries in Europe

and elsewhere are requiring greater disclosure, the U.S. remains a tax and secrecy haven, allowing so-called beneficial owners who profit from these corporations to hide their identities by registering in states like Delaware, Nevada, Wyoming and South Dakota.

Lawmakers in Washington are trying to bring more transparency to corporate ownership. The House passed a bill in October that would force states to collect information about who's behind shell companies of all types and share it with law enforcement. A similar bill is pending in the Senate Banking Committee.

In the absence of such transparency, the Defense Department continues to face financial and national security risks in its supply chain, the GAO said. Protecting that pipeline is a daunting challenge, and it begins at the most basic level — figuring out who actually owns its contractors

and benefits from their work.

The Pentagon accounted for two-thirds of all U.S. government contracts last year, awarding \$350 billion in business to 38,000 companies. Foreign suppliers are eligible for some Pentagon contracts but not for those involving certain sensitive technologies.

For foreign adversaries like China, Russia or Iran, shell companies could be a point of entry into the Pentagon's procurement system. Last year, the Air Force scrapped a \$420 million contract to make bunker-busting bombs after a competitor complained that it had been given to a foreign-owned company with ties to a U.S.-sanctioned Russian oligarch. Federal contractors are supposed to self-report ownership information to the government, but the Defense Department often can't verify that information.

Defense Department contracting officers lack the "time, resources or training they need to

conduct in-depth reviews or analysis of the ownership aspects of a particular company," the GAO said.

While the GAO praised some Pentagon efforts to monitor contractor ownership, it said they've been piecemeal. It recommends that the Pentagon emulate the private sector by using commercially available data mining and analysis tools to uncover identifying information from a range of databases.

Banks, for example, use credit bureaus and other data sources to gather personal information on new customers and to report suspicious financial activities to law enforcement.

"There's a rule in banking called 'Know Your Customer,'" said Jeffrey Lovitky, a Washington lawyer and expert in government procurement law. "In military procurement, there really should be a rule, 'Know Your Contractor.'"

MIDEAST

US fast-response team flies out to the Middle East

BY SARAH BLAKE MORGAN
AND JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Being a U.S. soldier in a fast-response force sometimes means being sent halfway across the world within a day, leaving no time to say goodbye to those staying behind.

That's what happened to April Shumard when her husband, a member of the 82 Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, got the call. He was at home, minding the couple's five children while Shumard was at work at Healing Hands day spa when he sent her a text. He had to rush to base. He wasn't sure if it was a drill or a deployment. Then she got another text: "We're leaving tomorrow."

She said her husband has been in the military since 2010 and has already deployed twice to Afghanistan. But with those circumstances, the family had much more time to prepare and say goodbye.

"The kids kept going, 'When's Dad going to be home?'" said Shumard, 42.

Her husband was among hundreds of U.S. soldiers deployed Saturday from Fort Bragg, N.C.,

to Kuwait to serve as reinforcements in the Middle East amid rising tensions following the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general.

Lt. Col. Mike Burns, a spokesman for the 82nd Airborne Division, told The Associated Press 3,500 members of the division's quick-deployment brigade, known officially as its Immediate Response Force, will have deployed within a few days. The most recent group of service members to deploy will join about 700 who left earlier in the week, Burns said.

A loading ramp at Fort Bragg was filled Saturday morning with combat gear and restless soldiers. Some tried to grab a last-minute nap on wooden benches. Reporters saw others filing out buses.

The additional troop deployments reflect concerns about potential Iranian retaliatory action in the volatile aftermath of Friday's drone strike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force who has been blamed for attacks on U.S. troops and American allies going back decades.

President Donald Trump ordered the airstrike near Baghdad's international airport. Iran



CHRIS SEWARD/AP

U.S. Army soldiers rest before heading out on Saturday, at Fort Bragg, N.C., as troops from the 82nd Airborne are deployed to the Middle East as reinforcements in the volatile aftermath of the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

has vowed retribution, raising fears of an all-out war, but it's unclear how or when a response might come.

Reporters weren't able to interview the soldiers leaving Fort Bragg on Saturday, but an airman loading one of the cargo planes told an Army cameraman he was making New Year's plans when he got a call to help load up the soldiers, according to video footage released by the military.

"We're responsible for loading the cargo. Almost our whole squadron got alerted. Like a bunch of planes are coming over

here," the unnamed airman said. "I was getting ready to go out for New Year's when they called me."

In the gray early morning light Saturday, Army video showed soldiers dressed in camouflage fatigues filing into planes, carrying rucksacks and rifles. Humvees were rolled onto another cargo plane and chained in place for the flight to the Middle East.

Burns said the soldiers within the Immediate Response Force train constantly to be ready to respond quickly to crises abroad. When called by their superiors,

they have two hours to get to base with their gear and must maintain a state of readiness so that they can be in the air headed to their next location within 18 hours.

"So whether they were on leave, whether they were home drinking a beer, whether they were, you know, hanging out, throwing the kids up in the yard, you get the call and it's time to go," he said.

He said that soldiers typically keep individual "go-bags" of their personal gear with them at their living quarters.

Expel: US lawmaker claims Iran is manipulating Iraqi government

FROM FRONT PAGE

Political factions have been unable to agree on a new prime minister, and Abdul-Mahdi continues in a caretaker capacity.

Asked shortly before the parliamentary vote whether the U.S. would comply with an Iraqi government request for American troops to leave, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would not answer directly.

"We'll watch. We're following very closely what's taking place in the Iraqi Parliament," he told CBS' "Face the Nation." "It is the United States that is prepared to help the Iraqi people get what it is they deserve and continue our mission there to take down terrorism from ISIS and others in the region."

A pullout of U.S. troops could cripple the fight against the Islamic State and allow it to make a comeback. Militants affiliated with ISIS routinely carry out attacks in northern and western Iraq, hiding out in rugged desert and mountainous areas. Iraqi forces rely on the U.S. for logistics and weapons.

An American withdrawal could also enable Iran to deepen its influence in Iraq, a majority Shiite country like Iran.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on Fox News that the parliamentary vote is "a bit concerning."

"The Iranian government is trying to basically take over Iraq's political system. Iran is bribing Iraqi politicians. To the Iraqi people, do not allow your politicians to turn Iraq into a proxy of Iran," he said.

The attack that killed Soleimani has dramatically escalated regional tensions and raised fears of outright war.

Amid Iran's threats of vengeance, the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq announced Sunday it is putting the fight against Islamic State militants on hold to focus on protecting its troops and bases. The coalition said it is suspending the training of Iraqi forces and other operations in support of the battle against ISIS.

Also, the leader of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group vowed to end the U.S. military's presence in the Middle East, saying U.S. bases, warships and soldiers are now fair targets.

"The suicide attackers who forced the Americans to leave from our region in the past are still here and their numbers have

increased," Nasrallah said. It was not clear which suicide bombings Nasrallah was referring to. But a 1983 attack on a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killed 241 U.S. servicemen and led President Ronald Reagan to withdraw all American forces from the country.

Nasrallah spoke from an undisclosed location, and his speech was played on large screens for thousands of Shiite followers in southern Beirut, interrupted occasionally by chants of "Death to America!" The comments were Nasrallah's first since Soleimani's killing.

The majority of about 180 legislators present in Parliament voted in favor of the troop-re-

moval resolution. It was backed by most Shiite members of parliament, who hold a majority of seats. Many Sunni and Kurdish legislators did not show up for the session, apparently because they oppose abolishing the deal.

"The government should work on ending the presence of all foreign forces," Parliament Speaker Mohamed al-Halbousi said after the vote.

The administration also faces troubling questions about the legality of the Soleimani killing, its failure to consult Congress in advance, and the prospect of plunging America into a new Mideast war.

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MIDEAST

President warns Iran against retaliation

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — President Donald Trump warned Iran that if it strikes American personnel or assets, the U.S. would target 52 Iranian sites.

"Those targets and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD," Trump said in a tweet Saturday.

The online warning came after rockets struck areas of Baghdad, an air base used by American troops and a soccer field in Mosul on Saturday. Meanwhile, a Shiite militia commander hinted at more strikes to come.

The U.S.-led coalition said Sunday that it had halted training of Iraqi forces and support for their anti-Islamic State operations in order to focus on defending bases from Iran and its proxies.

Five Iraqi civilians were reported injured from the rocket strike in the capital's Jadriya neighbor-

hood, according to regional news site Al Arabiya.

No casualties were reported at a second Baghdad impact site, Grand Celebrations Square in the Green Zone.

Separate attacks hit Balad Air Base, about 55 miles north of Baghdad, and the northern city of Mosul, but did not cause any casualties, initial reports stated.

Several hours later, the U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS in the country issued a statement denying that the Mosul strike had hit a military headquarters compound in the northern Iraqi city.

Iraqi Security Forces are investigating the incidents in Baghdad and Balad, which bring the number of rocket strikes on bases hosting coalition troops in the last two months to 13.

"Previous attacks, in November and December, killed and wounded Iraqi and Coalition personnel," said Col. Myles B. Caggins III, a spokesman for the coalition bat-

tling ISIS in the country.

After a base was rocketed in Kirkuk in late December, the first of the recent spate of attacks to draw American blood, the Defense Department responded by striking five sites used by the Iran-backed militia group Kataeb Hezbollah, which the Pentagon has blamed for the base attacks.

Shortly after the latest rockets fell, a Kataeb Hezbollah commander issued a warning in a channel on the Telegram app telling Iraqi security forces to keep a distance of at least 1,000 meters from American bases, suggesting more such attacks to come.

Meanwhile, the coalition has increased security and defensive measures at Iraqi bases hosting its troops, Caggins said.

U.S. and coalition troops typically live in separate compounds from their Iraqi counterparts, but within the same bases as them, meaning rocket strikes could inflict damage or casualties to Iraqi

forces. The strike that spilled American blood last month also wounded two Iraqi troops and earlier strikes had exclusively wounded government forces.

Iran telling Iraqi government forces what to do "puts Iraqi patriot's lives at risk," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a pair of Twitter posts about the Kataeb Hezbollah warning.

The rockets hit Baghdad and Balad minutes apart, just before 8 p.m. Saturday, the coalition statement said. In the capital, the indirect fire impacted inside the heavily-fortified international zone, but outside coalition facilities, Caggins said.

About an hour later, Army Maj. Charlie Dietz, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition's Task Force Iraq, tweeted that "all clear" had been sounded at Union III, a base inside the zone that houses coalition troops.

Dietz later confirmed that a rocket had hit near a soccer field

in Mosul and was under a tarp, being worked up by explosive ordinance disposal.

U.S. and Iraqi forces occupy a pair of adjoining compounds on the eastern bank of the Tigris River in Mosul in a palace complex. The complex was not struck, Dietz said.

Reports of the attacks came as thousands of militiamen and other supporters marched in a funeral procession in Baghdad for Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general who was killed Friday in a U.S. airstrike.

"Iran is talking very boldly about targeting certain U.S. assets as revenge for our ridding the world of their terrorist leader who had just killed an American," Trump said when issuing his warning. "The U.S. wants no more threats!"

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Iran abandons nuclear deal as country mourns general

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Sunday it would no longer abide by any of the limits of its unraveling 2015 nuclear deal with world powers after a U.S. airstrike killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad, abandoning the accord's key provisions that block Tehran from having enough material to build an atomic weapon.

Iran insisted in a state television broadcast it remained open to negotiations with European partners, who so far have been unable to offer Tehran a way to sell its crude oil abroad despite U.S. sanctions. It also didn't back off of earlier promises that it wouldn't seek a nuclear weapon.

However, the announcement Sunday represents the clearest nuclear proliferation threat yet made by Iran since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord in May 2018. It also further raises regional tensions, as Iran's longtime foe Israel has promised never to allow Iran to be able to produce an atomic bomb.

The announcement came Sunday night after another Iranian official said it would consider taking even harsher steps over the U.S. killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani on Friday. Hundreds of thousands of people flooded the streets Sunday in Iran to walk alongside a casket carrying the remains of Soleimani, the former leader of its expeditionary Quds Force that organizes Tehran's proxy forces in the wider Middle East.

The leader of one such proxy, Lebanon's Hezbollah, said Soleimani's killing made U.S. military bases, warships and service members spread across the region fair targets for attacks. A former Revolutionary Guard leader suggested the Israeli city of Haifa



ALIREZA MOHAMMADI, ISNA/AP

The flag-draped coffins of Gen. Qassem Soleimani and his comrades who were killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone strike are carried on a truck surrounded by mourners during their funeral in Alivaz, Iran, on Sunday.

and "centers" like Tel Aviv could be targeted.

Iran's state TV cited a statement by President Hassan Rouhani's administration saying the country will not observe limitations on its enrichment, the amount of stockpiled enriched uranium as well as research and development in its nuclear activities.

"The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has in a statement announced its fifth and final step in reducing Iran's commitments under the JCPOA," a state TV broadcaster said, using an acronym for the deal. "The Islamic Republic of Iran no longer faces any limitations in operations."

It did not elaborate on what levels it would immediately reach in its program.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations

watchdog observing Iran's program, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, Iran said that its cooperation with the IAEA "will continue as before."

Soleimani's killing has escalated the crisis between Tehran and Washington after months of trading attacks and threats that have put the wider Middle East on edge. The conflict is rooted in Trump pulling out of Iran's atomic accord and imposing sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

Iran has promised "harsh revenge" for the U.S. attack, which shocked Iranians across all political lines. Many saw Soleimani as a pillar of the Islamic Republic at a moment when it is beset by U.S. sanctions and recent anti-government protests.

Retaliation for Soleimani could potentially come through the proxy forces which he oversaw. Soleimani's longtime deputy Esmail Ghaani already has taken over as the Quds Force's commander.

The U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia separately warned Americans "of the heightened risk of missile and drone attacks."

After thousands in Baghdad on Saturday mourned Soleimani and others killed in the strike, authorities flew the general's body to the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz. An honor guard stood by early Sunday as mourners carried the flag-draped coffins of Soleimani and other Guard members off the tarmac.

The caskets then moved slowly through streets choked with mourners wearing black, beating

their chests and carrying posters with Soleimani's portrait. Demonstrators also carried red Shiite flags, which traditionally both symbolize the spilled blood of someone unjustly killed and call for their deaths to be avenged.

Officials brought Soleimani's body to Ahvaz, a city that was a focus of fighting during the bloody, 1980-88 war between Iraq and Iran in which the general slowly grew to prominence. After that war, Soleimani joined the Quds's newly formed Quds, or Jerusalem, Force, an expeditionary force that works with Iranian proxy forces in countries like Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

Authorities then took Soleimani's body to the city of Mashhad later Sunday. State TV estimated that a million mourners came out to the Imam Reza shrine to pay their respects, although that number could not be independently verified. Soleimani's remains will go to Tehran and Qom on Monday for public mourning processions, followed by his hometown of Kerman for burial Tuesday.

This marks the first time Iran honored a single man with a multicity ceremony. Not even Khomeini received such a procession with his death in 1989. Soleimani on Monday will lie in state at Tehran's famed Musalla mosque as the revolutionary leader died before him.

Soleimani was the architect of Iran's regional policy of mobilizing militias across Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, including in the war against the Islamic State. He was also blamed for attacks on U.S. troops and American allies going back decades.

Although it's unclear how or when Iran may respond, any retaliation was likely to come after three days of mourning declared in both Iran and Iraq.

MIDEAST

Protesters condemn US airstrikes in Iraq

By SOPHIE WINGATE AND BILL SMITH
dpa

NEW YORK — Demonstrators took to the streets in cities across the United States and in London on Saturday to protest Washington's killing of a top Iranian general in Iraq and urge restraint by western governments.

"No justice, no peace, U.S. out of the Middle East," crowds chanted in New York's Times Square, holding signs that read "Stop bombing Iraq" and "No war or sanctions on Iran."

There were similar scenes in Chicago, where around 200 protesters gathered outside the Trump Tower, and in Philadelphia, where about 500 people demonstrated.

The actor and activist Jane Fonda joined a rally outside the White House in Washington.

Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, or ANSWER, a U.S.-based anti-war coalition, said it, and other groups planned around 70 protests after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered an airstrike that killed Qassem Soleimani, the powerful commander of Iran's elite Quds Force.

The move has sharply escalated tensions in the region. Iranian leaders have vowed "harsh retaliation" for Soleimani's killing, while Trump defended his decision by saying he had ordered the strike "to stop a war."

ANSWER said on its website that the protests are "against a new war in the Middle East and calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and bases in the region," after the Pentagon announced it was deploying



GARETH FULLER, PA/AP

Protesters demonstrate outside the U.S. Embassy in London on Sunday.

around 3,000 additional troops there.

In London, senior lawmakers from Britain's main opposition Labour party joined dozens of activist war protesters to urge restraint by Western governments amid tension with Iran.

The Stop the War Coalition organized the protest outside Downing Street, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's official residence.

"From our experience of the build-up to the (2003) Iraq war, it's vitally important for us to stand up firmly and early for peace," Labour shadow chancellor John



ANA RAMIREZ, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

People hold signs outside the Texas state capital in Austin, Texas, on Saturday to protest the possibility of a new war in the Middle East. Hundreds came to protest after a U.S. airstrike in Iraq killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani on Friday.

McDonnell tweeted.

Richard Burgon, Labour's shadow justice minister, told the protesters that former U.S. president George W. Bush had made clear in a speech 17 years ago that the United States "would launch war on Iraq, regardless of whether there was U.N. backing or not."

"And to our shame, our government signed up to that," Burgon said, adding that "hundreds of thousands of Iraqis died (and) millions of Iraqi lives were destroyed" in the war.

"But a war on Iran could be even more deadly. It risks a new full-scale war in the Middle East that could spiral out of control," he said.

Ahead of the protest, Stop the War Coalition convenor Lindsey German said the killing of Soleimani was "an act of war" by Trump.

"Trump has been heading for war since tearing up the nuclear deal with Iran, and if he succeeds, (he) will create a bigger war than we have seen in the Middle East," German said.

Anti-war protests also took place in Berlin, the Bangladesh capital Dhaka and in the Canadian cities of Toronto and Ottawa.

Around a hundred activists demonstrated in Dhaka under the banner of Left Democratic Alliance.

The protesters called the attacks in Iraq "barbaric," chanting "down with the United States," and "crush down U.S. imperialism."

They also criticized the government for its silence. The government in Muslim-majority Bangladesh is yet to make an official statement on the escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Where US troops are in Middle East could be targets

By MIRIAM BERGER
The Washington Post

Iran has promised severe revenge for the United States' killing of Qassem Soleimani, the commander's powerful military command, across the Middle East, these threats of confrontation have put on high alert the bases, ports and other installations where U.S. troops are based or pass through.

On Friday, the Pentagon announced that it was sending an additional 3,500 troops to the region, while troops in Italy were put on standby, according to defense officials. The troop escalation came just days after President Donald Trump ordered an additional 750 U.S. soldiers to the Middle East and 3,000 more to be on alert for future deployment, after pro-Iranian forces stormed the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad as part of a worsening cycle of violence.

The United States has tens of thousands of military personnel at bases and aboard ships across the Middle East, as well as arrangements with various countries to move soldiers and military equipment through air-strips and ports. Here's a look at some of these places, which could now be targets.

Iraq: Estimated 6,000 troops

U.S. officials won't say exactly how many troops there are in Iraq or where they are based. There are an estimated 6,000 troops stationed across the country, including in the Green Zone, Baghdad's walled-off diplomatic area, and at al-Asad Air Base, where Vice President Mike Pence visited U.S. troops in November.

Tensions are extremely high in Iraq, which is stuck in the middle of the U.S.-Iranian faceoff. That's put a spotlight on U.S. citizens and installations there: On Friday, the State Department ordered all American citizens to leave the country.

Syria: Estimated 800 troops
U.S. officials are also tight-lipped about how many U.S. troops are in Syria and where. As many as 800 remain in the country after the Trump administration abruptly withdrew soldiers in October. At that time, the number was around 2,000. The U.S. garrison at Tanf, by the Syrian-Jordanian border, is now one potential flash point, the Brussels-based International Crisis Group has warned, because Iranian and Iranian-backed forces are deployed nearby.

Afghanistan: Estimated 14,000 troops

Afghanistan, where around 14,000 U.S. military personnel

are stationed and which is in southern Asia, could become another "arena for U.S.-Iranian contestation," the ICG has warned. In November, Trump made a surprise visit to troops stationed at Afghanistan's Bagram air base.

Kuwait: About 13,000 troops
The United States has about 13,000 military personnel spread among several bases in Kuwait, according to the Congressional Research Service. The two countries have had a Defense Cooperation Agreement since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Jordan: About 3,000 troops
Jordan - bordering Iraq, Syria, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as Saudi Arabia - is a strategically located U.S. ally. Its Muwaffaq Salti Air Base was an important launching point in the battle against the Islamic State, and there are plans to upgrade the complex. In November 2016, three U.S. soldiers were killed by a Jordanian air force sergeant in a rare shooting at King Faisal Air Base.

Saudi Arabia: Estimated 3,000 troops

In October, the United States announced that it was sending additional troops to Saudi Arabia as tensions with Iran continued to build. Saudi Arabia and Iran have long been regional rivals: The

two are involved in a proxy war in Yemen. Washington has accused Iran of attacking oil and gas facilities in Saudi Arabia, which Iran has denied.

Bahrain: More than 7,000 troops

Bahrain hosts a U.S. Navy base, where several thousand personnel are stationed or pass through. The island nation is a close ally of Saudi Arabia and has supported Trump's aggressive stance toward Iran. Bahrain also suppressed a Shiite uprising in 2011, putting it further at odds with Iran's government.

Oman: About 600 troops
Oman hosts only a few hundred troops. In March, it signed a deal allowing U.S. planes and warships to use some Omani airstrips and ports.

Most important, Oman is along the Arabian Peninsula near the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil choke point. It's also where the United States and Iran for months have been engaged in oil tanker standoffs: Since withdrawing from the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal almost two years ago, the United States has increased pressure on Iran, including canceling waivers for countries to buy Iranian oil. Iran has in turn threatened close access to the strait, which

would severely constrain access to oil. Washington has also accused Iran of sabotaging oil tankers in the waterway, which Iran has denied.

United Arab Emirates: Up to 5,000 troops

The UAE is another country near the Strait of Hormuz that's been part of the tanker confrontations. It has hosted as many as 5,000 troops in recent years and is traditionally allied with Saudi Arabia and the United States. But rising tensions in the region have put the UAE on edge, and it has taken a somewhat more conciliatory approach to Iran in recent months.

Qatar: As many as 13,000 troops

Qatar is home to al-Udeid, the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East. In 2018, Qatar announced a \$1.8 billion plan to upgrade the base. The move came as Qatar was battling a blockade by rivals Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Turkey: Estimated 2,500 troops

Turkey hosts U.S. troops at Incirlik Air Base, as well as other sites where NATO forces are deployed.

NATION

5 dead in crash on Pennsylvania Turnpike

Associated Press

GREENSBURG, Pa. — A deadly crash involving a passenger bus and multiple other vehicles on the Pennsylvania Turnpike left at least five dead and dozens injured early Sunday, shutting down a large portion of the highway.

Officials said at least 60 people, ranging in age from 7 to 52 years old, were hospitalized after the crash that happened at 3:40 a.m. in Westmoreland County, around 30 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Photos from the scene show a mangled collision of multiple vehicles including an overturned bus, two tractor-trailers, passenger cars and a smashed FedEx truck that left packages sprawled along the highway.

There were 25 victims transported to Excelsa Frick Hospital in Mount Pleasant, Excelsa Health spokeswoman Robin Jennings

said. Nine of those patients are under the age of 18.

At least one of the 25 victims initially sent to Excelsa was taken to a nearby trauma center and the rest of the patients' conditions were not known, Jennings said.

Information about what caused the accident was not immediately available, and the National Transportation Safety Board investigators were called to the scene.

The National Weather Service forecast for Westmoreland County early Sunday listed light precipitation and an air temperature just below freezing.

Pennsylvania Turnpike spokesman Carl DeFebo said it was "premature" to say if weather was a factor in the crash. He added that a portion of the turnpike would likely be closed for the rest of the day.



WPXI TV/AP

Emergency crews respond to a fatal crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Mount Pleasant Township early Sunday morning. The crash involved a passenger bus, two tractor-trailers and vehicles, officials said.

Little outreach to minority victims of priests

Associated Press

The Samples were a black Chicago family, with six children and few resources. The priest helped them with tuition, clothes, bills. He offered the promise of opportunities — a better life.

He also abused all the children.

They told no one. They were afraid of not being believed and of losing what little they had, said one son, Terrence Sample. And nobody asked, until a lawyer investigating alleged abuses by the same priest prompted him to break his then 33-year silence.

"Somebody had to make the effort," Sample said. "Why wasn't it the church?"

Even as it has pledged to go after predators in its ranks and provide support to those harmed by clergy, the church has done little to identify and reach sexual



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Terrence Sample and his siblings were abuse by a priest in Chicago when they were children. He kept the abuse quiet for 33 years.

abuse victims. For survivors of color, who often face additional social and cultural barriers to coming forward on their own, the lack of concerted outreach on behalf of the church means less public exposure — and potentially, more opportunities for abuse

to go on, undetected.

"The church has to come into the shadows, into the trenches to find the people who were victimized, especially the people of color," Sample said. "There are other people like me and my family, who won't come forward un-

less someone comes to them."

Brian Clites, a leading scholar on clergy sexual abuse and professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said the church has demonstrated a pattern of funneling predator priests to economically disadvantaged communities of color, where victims have much more to lose if they report their abuse.

"They are less likely to know where to get help, less likely to have money for a lawyer to pursue that help and they are more vulnerable to counterattacks" from the church, which will hire investigators against the survivors, said Clites.

There is no accurate count of clergy abuse survivors. A special report commissioned by the Colorado attorney general's office examining abuse within state dioceses and released in October determined "victims of child

sex abuse and particularly those abused by clergy are less likely to report their abuse than other crime victims."

As for minority survivors, dioceses rarely collect demographic data.

Some survivors, like Sample, kept quiet because they did not want the resources their abusers provided to dry up, said Phillip Aaron, a Seattle-based attorney who represented the Sample family.

Sample, now 58, was a middle school student at St. Procopius Catholic school, when his abuser, a priest there, took an interest in him. He was groomed, isolated and assaulted for several years, he said.

"I was thinking I have to keep this secret," Sample said. "One, we have to eat and two, we have to stay in school, and this would kill my mom if she knew."

1 of 2 Miss. escapees recaptured and returned to prison

Associated Press

One of two prisoners believed to have escaped from one of several Mississippi prisons recently rocked by violence is back in custody, authorities said early Sunday.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections tweeted just before

3:30 a.m. that David May was in custody.

Gov. Phil Bryant on Saturday said via Twitter that he directed "the use of all necessary assets and personnel" to find the two inmates who escaped Saturday from the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Five inmates have

died in prison violence since Dec. 29; three of those deaths have occurred at Parchman.

The corrections department said in a Facebook post that May, 42, and Dillion Williams, 27, were discovered missing from Parchman during an "emergency count" about 1:45 a.m. Saturday.

May is serving a life sentence for two aggravated assault convictions in Harrison County, and Williams is serving a 40-year sentence for residential burglary and aggravated assault in Marshall County.

Parchman is a series of cell blocks scattered across thousands

of acres of farmland in Mississippi's Delta region. Inmates who escape their cells sometimes don't make it off the property.

All state prisons statewide remained locked down Saturday, Bryant said, with inmates confined to cells, and no visitors allowed.

Police charge man with armed robbery of bank, sexual assault in Illinois

New York Daily News

An armed bank robber has been charged with sexually assaulting a woman he held hostage Friday for nearly seven hours in

side an Illinois credit union.

Nicholas August, 39, is facing two counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault as well as armed robbery and aggravated unlawful restraint in connection with the

hours-long standoff in Rockford, according to CBS-2 Chicago.

Police said August entered the building through a back door and took a female bank employee hostage before ordering the remain-

ing workers to exit the bank.

When police arrived at the bank, August barricaded himself inside the building, police said. The bank employee was rushed to the hospital for injuries that

were not considering life-threatening. Just hours later, FBI agents learned she was allegedly sexually assaulted during the lengthy holdup.

WIRED WORLD

Virtual gym class

Some schools allow students to complete workouts outside of class with the help of fitness trackers, apps

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

Grace Brown's schedule at West Potomac High School in northern Virginia is filled with all the usual academics, and she's packed in Latin, chorus and piano as extras.

What she can't cram into the 8:10 a.m.-2:55 p.m. school day is gym class.

So she's taking that one minus the gym, and on her own time.

The 14-year-old freshman is getting school credit for virtual physical education, a concept that, as strange as it may sound, is being helped along by the availability of wearable fitness trackers.

For students whose tests and textbooks have migrated to screens, using technology as gym equipment may have been only a matter of time.

Grace, who lives in Alexandria, wears a school-issued Fitbit on her wrist while getting in at least three 30-minute workouts a week outside of school hours. She has an app on her computer that screenshots her activity so she can turn it in for credit.

While online physical education classes have been around for well over a decade, often as part of virtual or online schools, the technology has made possible a new level of accountability, its users say.

"We're asking kids to wear this while they do an activity of their

'We're so stuck in the traditional classroom setting. These kids are burning 2,000 calories during a practice and more at every game. I wish the schools would catch up with the times.'

Rhonda Brown

mother of Grace Brown, 14

choice, and they can change the activity as they desire, as long as it's something that they understand is probably going to get their heart rate up," said Elizabeth Edwards, department head for online physical education at Fairfax County Public Schools, which includes Grace's high school.

Though a physical education instructor isn't shouting from the sidelines, teachers do guide assignments by setting goals such as fat burn, cardio or peak, relying on the technology to be their eyes and ears. Students also are required to sign in for a weekly 60-minute to 90-minute classroom session with the teacher.

Teenagers who play soccer, swim or dance all year may satisfy the workout requirements without doing anything extra. Grace has been adding bike rides and jogs to her days.

For her, online PE freed her up to take three elective courses, instead of two in school. For others, it's a welcome way to take a required class that students otherwise

may find socially or physically challenging.

"We definitely exercise more in online PE," Grace said. "There's a lot of standing around in regular PE. Online, I do much harder workouts."

A survey of more than 3,000 fitness professionals by the American College of Sports Medicine named wearable technology the top trend in fitness for 2020.

It's not clear how many schools are embracing the trend. It comes with some cautions. Technology and the collection of any student data always raises the specter of student privacy concerns. And some worry that students who exercise on their own may miss out on important social concepts such as teamwork.

"There is a difference between physical activity and physical education," said Chris Hersl, former vice president for programs and professional development at SHAPE America, which wrote national standards for K-12 physical education.



PHOTOS BY JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Grace Brown, 14, adjusts her fitness tracker at the park where she does her jogging workouts for her "online PE" class in Alexandria, Va. Grace takes part in a virtual physical education class after regular school hours.

"Physical activity is great for the body. We want everybody to move," he said, "but physical education is a class where students are taught how to move their body and the social context in which to do that."

Joliet Township schools in Illinois use fitness trackers as part of a blended learning conditioning program that has students who sign up for it work out two to three times a week in the gym with an instructor and the other days on their own.

"It's a flexible schedule where they still have in-person physical education classes and there's still instruction happening, but they're able to use the Fitbit to monitor how students are working outside the classroom," said Karla Guseman, the district's associate superintendent for educational services.

She said it's one of numerous blending learning options that Joliet Township High School offers to give students both more control over the pace and time of their work, and more responsibility to get it done.

"We're trying to give them an opportunity to see what post-secondary might look like," Guseman said, "when you don't meet every day but you're still expected to do work for a course or preparation between class periods."

A virtual school that is part of the Springfield, Mo., public school district started with a single class — physical education, said Nichole Lemmon, the creator of the program, called Launch, which uses Garmin fitness trackers.

"Eight years ago, it was the very first online class by our developers to meet a really niche student who could not fit PE courses into their schedule," Lemmon said. "Maybe they wanted to take more honors level courses, or advanced placement, or international baccalaureate classes and PE was hard to fit in, so we allowed them to do it outside of the school day." A telling illustration of the technology-driven 24/7 school

day is the peak login time on the school's portal system: 10:03 p.m.

"They may not be working out at 10 p.m., but that's when they're turning in their workout. The notion that education now runs 7:30-4, 8-3, is really antiquated," Lemmon said, "and our students are begging to be able to have more flexibility in the time of day they learn."

During the past summer session, there were 22,600 students enrolled, and the most popular courses were PE, she said.

Teachers help students set up their fitness devices, entering the student's height, weight and age, and coming up with a target heart rate. As an added layer of instruction and accountability, Launch students are required to send video back to the teacher, who checks their technique as they stretch or lift weights, for example.

"They work with their PE instructor to set a fitness goal, and then they get their workout however they want to," Lemmon said. It really does promote lifelong fitness because it's about working out the way they want to, not they're required to do a particular activity in gym. We have a lot of kids — a locker room is their worst nightmare. It's not where they want to be."

Grace's mother, Rhonda Brown, remembers how hard gym class soccer and softball games were for her because of blindness in one eye.

"You're talking to someone who was always picked last for every sporting activity. I have nightmares sometimes," she said.

She'd like to see the county go even further and grant waivers from PE to kids that play school sports.

"We're so stuck in the traditional classroom setting. These kids are burning 2,000 calories during a practice and more at every game," she said. "I wish the schools would catch up with the times."



Grace Brown jogs at a nearby park as part of her online PE class. She also has added bike rides and jogs to her days.

WORLD

Police: Driver in Italy plows into German tourists

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME — A drunken driver plowed into a group of young German tourists in northern Italy early Sunday, killing six people and injuring 11 others, Italian authorities said.

The deadly crash occurred in a village near Valle Aurina, near Bolzano in the Alto Adige region, shortly after 1 a.m. as the Germans — who were between the ages of 20-25 — gathered to board their bus.

The largely German-speaking autonomous region of northern Italy, with its ski resorts in the Dolomites and quaint villages around Bolzano, is popular with German tourists.

"The new year begins with a terrible tragedy," said the regional president of Alto Adige, Arno Kompatscher. "We are left stunned."

The driver of the car had a high blood alcohol content and was driving particularly fast, a Carabinieri police official in Brunico told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized

to give his name. He said police had concluded that the car crash into pedestrians was not an act of terrorism.

The Lutago volunteer fire service said on Facebook that six people were killed at the scene. The 11 injured, four of whom were in critical condition, were taken to several regional hospitals, including two who were airlifted to a hospital in Innsbruck, Austria, said Bolzano Carabinieri Cmdr. Alessandro Coassin.

In all, 160 rescue workers and emergency medical personnel responded to the crash, the aftermath of which "looked like a battlefield," Helmut Abfalterer of the Lutago volunteer fire service told the Tageszeitung Online portal.

Coassin said the driver, identified by Italian media as a 28-year-old man from the nearby town of Chienes, was arrested on suspicion of highway manslaughter and injury and was being treated at the hospital in Brunico.

Kompatscher told a press conference the victims were part of a group of young Germans vacationing in the region. He expressed his condolences to their families and declined to provide



A man lights a candle at the scene where a car plowed into a group of German tourists waiting for a bus Sunday in northern Italy, killing at least 6 people.

further details pending notification of their deaths to their loved ones.

Later Sunday, mourners left candles and flowers at the crash scene, which was located along a two-lane road dotted by hotels

and old piles of snow in the mountainous region.

The accident occurred on the final long weekend of the Christmas and New Year's holiday in Italy, which will be capped by Epiphany on Monday.

Airstrike hits Libya military academy

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — The death toll from an airstrike that slammed into a military academy in Libya's capital climbed to at least 30 people, most of them students, health authorities said Sunday, as fighting over control of Tripoli between rival armed groups escalated.

Eastern Libyan forces led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter launched an offensive in April to take the capital from the weak but U.N.-supported government. Libya is governed by rival authorities in the east and in Tripoli in the west, with each relying on different militias.

The airstrike took place late Saturday in the Hadaba area, just south of the city center, the health ministry of the Tripoli-based government said. Fighting and shelling between the two sides have been raging for months in the area.

The U.N.-supported Libyan government blamed the airstrike on Hifter's self-styled Libyan National Army. A spokesman for the LNA did not respond to phone calls seeking comment.

Hifter has declared a "final" and decisive battle for the capital. That followed a military and maritime agreement Tripoli authorities signed with their ally Turkey calling for the deployment of Turkish troops to Libya.

Turkey's parliament on Thursday authorized sending forces to Libya to support Tripoli authorities. Libya's eastern-based parliament condemned the move along with other regional and world powers.

Ghassan Salame, the U.N. envoy to Libya, said Turkish troops on the ground would further diminish chances for ending the violence.

Salame expects the warring Libyan groups to meet for peace talks in Germany in mid-January.

The ambulance service in Tripoli said the airstrike also wounded at least 33 people. It posted images of dead bodies and those wounded being treated at a hospital.

The U.N. Support Mission in Libyan condemned in "the strongest terms" the attack. It warned in a statement against "growing escalation" in the violence.

The city's siege has killed hundreds of people, mostly combatants, and displaced thousands of families in Tripoli and the surrounding areas.

The U.N. panel said neither side in Libya has "the military capability" to win the stalemated conflict.

Japan: Ghosn's escape inexcusable, probe ordered

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's justice minister on Sunday called the flight of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn as he awaited trial on financial misconduct charges inexcusable and vowed to beef up immigration checks.

Justice Minister Masako Mori said she had ordered an investigation after Ghosn issued a statement a few days ago saying he was in Lebanon.

She said there were no records of Ghosn's departure from Tokyo.

She said his bail has been revoked, and Interpol had issued a wanted notice. Departure checks needed to be strengthened to prevent a recurrence, Mori said.

While expressing deep regret over what had happened, Mori stopped short of outlining any specific action Japan might take to get

'The flight of a suspect while out on bail is never justified.'

Masako Mori
justice minister

Ghosn back.

Japan does not have an extradition treaty with Lebanon.

"Our nation's criminal justice system protects the basic human rights of an individual and properly carries out appropriate procedures to disclose the truth of various cases, and the flight of a suspect while out on bail is never justified," she said in a statement.

Mori's statement was the first public comment by a Japanese government official after

the stunning escape of Ghosn, once a superstar of the auto industry.

Tokyo prosecutors issued a similar statement Sunday. They had opposed Ghosn's release on bail, arguing he was a flight risk.

First arrested in November 2018, Ghosn was out on bail over the last several months, and more recently had moved into a home in an upscale part of Tokyo.

He has repeatedly said he was innocent. His statement from Beirut said he was escaping injustice.

Japan's justice system has come under fire from human rights advocates for its long detentions, the reliance on confessions and prolonged trials.

Ghosn had been charged with underreporting his future compensation and breach of trust in diverting Nissan money for his personal gain.

14 people killed in bus explosion in north Burkina Faso

Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — At least 14 civilians, mostly students, died Saturday after their bus hit an explosive device in northwestern Burkina Faso on the way back from a school break, according to a local official.

At least four others were also

injured in the explosion on the Tougan axis in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, according to regional communications director Moumouda Arsene Kayaba.

The ages of the students weren't immediately known.

Saturday's attack comes after gendarmeries on Friday killed

at least a dozen gunmen who had attacked their units in Inata in the Soum province, according to a statement by Burkina Faso's armed forces. Arms, ammunition and other materials were seized in the retaliation by Burkina Faso, it said.

Extremists have been increas-

ing attacks and gaining ground in Burkina Faso's north and east, displacing at least half a million people last year because of the insecurity.

Gunmen have targeted Inata before, killing one gendarme in October, and six others in September.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man left drugs, gun in designer bags at store

LA GALLIANO — Louisiana authorities are perplexed over why a man left apparent designer bags holding drugs, a gun, cash and a digital scale in a convenience store.

The man went into the store and put the Louis Vuitton and Gucci bags on a chair, according to a news release.

"The employee said he offered her \$100 to 'keep his bag,'" Lt. Brennan Matherne, spokesman for LaFourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre, said in an interview.

A customer later pointed out that one of them held a handgun, which turned out to be stolen from neighboring Terrebonne Parish. It also held cash and a digital scale, while the other bag held the drug Suboxone and suspected methamphetamine, according to the statement.

Psychic scammed mom, said girl was possessed

MA SOMERSET — A psychic stole more than \$70,000 from a client by telling the woman her 10-year-old daughter was possessed by a demon and she needed the money to banish the spirit, police in Massachusetts said.

Tracy Milanovich, 37, of Somerset, is charged with obtaining property by trick, along with larceny and witness intimidation, Somerset police said in a statement.

Police started investigating Dec. 17 when an alleged victim reported that she was tricked by Milanovich into handing over large sums of cash along with household items, including towels and bedding, to battle the demon.

Man has to move out of renovated mine shaft

NV LAS VEGAS — A Nevada man who has lived in an abandoned mine shaft for seven years has been given 30 days to vacate his renovated, underground home.

Boulder City police delivered the eviction notice to Richard Roman Dec. 19, The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Roman, 68, installed two swinging doors at the entrance of the mine shaft. The shaft leads to a cavern living area.

Roman has a customized mattress that fits into an elevated corner and a fan salvaged from a scrapped vehicle.

There is also a \$2,000 solar panel that powers several LED lights and batteries, while the floor of the cavern is covered with a discarded carpet from a casino.

Cat found with arrow lodged in its shoulder

VA DANVILLE — Police in Virginia said that a cat has been wounded after being shot by an arrow.

The Danville Register & Bee reported that someone spotted the cat in the parking lot of a roofing company.

Police arrived and called the



ANDREE KENN, SUN JOURNAL (LEWISTON, MAINE)/AP

Meet Coconut the Sloth

Del Niedzialek, the executive director of Foundation for Animal Rescue and Education, holds Coconut the Sloth at a Wildlife Festival held at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston, Maine, on Friday. Visitors learned that sloths, the slowest moving animal on the planet, move so slowly that moss will grow over them, and they require so little energy that they can eat that moss if there is no other vegetation available.

local Humane Society. It turned the cat over to the Animal Medical Center in Danville, which removed the plastic arrow from the cat's shoulder.

The projectile had been lodged inches above the feline's heart and lungs.

Danville police Maj. Timothy Jones said police are still are investigating.

Man claims he skinned dogs to make coat

KY PRESTONSBURG — A Kentucky man who claimed to have skinned four of his neighbors' dogs to make a "doggy coat" has been charged with animal torture.

Jonathan D. Watkins, 38, was arrested in the Floyd County community of David on Dec. 23 after a neighbor called authorities, news outlets reported.

The neighbor told police that Watkins came to his home to ask for a cigarette and was covered in blood.

The neighbor saw what looked like animal skins and dog carcasses on Watkins' front porch, the citation said.

A state trooper who responded found Watkins at his home with a knife and what appeared to be blood on his clothing.

When the trooper asked where the blood came from, Watkins replied, "I'm making myself a doggy coat," according to the arrest citation.

THE CENSUS

8 The number of abandoned Lhasa Apsos getting a new start after being left at a Florida animal shelter on New Year's Eve. The dogs had matted fur, were smelly and in some cases, malnourished when they were left at a Brevard County animal shelter in Cocoa. Veterinarians treated the dogs and groomers shaved off the thick fur that obscured the dogs' characteristically big eyes. They were renamed after characters from the television series "Sesame Street," Florida Today reported.

Alaskan volcano erupts, sends up ash cloud

AK ANCHORAGE — A volcano in Alaska's Aleutian Islands erupted and sent up an ash cloud, prompting an aircraft advisory.

Shishaldin Volcano shot ash to more than 20,000 feet and possibly 24,000 feet, the Alaska Volcano Observatory reported.

The volcano is 679 miles southwest of Anchorage near the center of Unimak Island, the largest island in the Aleutians and home to False Pass, a village of 40 on the island's east side. The cloud drifted southeast over ocean water.

Woman dozes, spends night at mattress store

MO RICHMOND HEIGHTS — A woman is a little embarrassed but well rested, after falling asleep testing a mattress at a Missouri store and spending the night

there. Richmond Heights Police Officer Allison Brown told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that officers were called to the undisclosed store after a worker found the woman wandering inside the business prior to its opening.

Police posted on social media that it was "the best mattress endorsement we've ever heard."

Authorities: Woman set fire to another woman

TN NASHVILLE — A woman is facing charges for setting another woman on fire in Tennessee, authorities said.

According to the Nashville Fire Department, Leila Dawson, 48, faces charges of attempted criminal homicide, aggravated arson and arson.

Dawson set the woman on fire inside of a duplex, and when firefighters arrived, they found the woman severely burned in the front yard, the fire department said.

Man leaps off bridge, thought cops after him

GA ATLANTA — A driver who mistakenly thought Atlanta police were chasing him as they were pursuing a different speeding motorist crashed his car and jumped 40 feet off a highway bridge to escape.

The driver survived the jump and ran into a wooded area, and now police really are looking for him, news outlets reported.

The chase began when officers attempted to pull over someone else, WSB-TV reported.

A gun was found under the bridge and drugs were recovered from his car.

Man and goat taken on drive across 3 states

OK SAND SPRINGS — A man stole a pickup truck with a sleeping passenger and a goat inside it and drove it all the way from Missouri to Oklahoma before releasing the terrified victim and animal and eventually being arrested, authorities said.

The suspect, Brandon Kirby, 40, took methamphetamine and pistol-wounded the victim during the 130-mile ordeal.

The Sand Springs Police Department said on Facebook: "OK 2020, it only took you 4.5 hours to get weird. Let's slow down on the carjacking-goatnapping calls for the remainder of the year."

From wire reports

WORLD

Prime minister defends Australia fire response

BY SHONAL GANGULY
AND STEVE MCMORRAN
Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison defended his leadership and his government's record on climate change Sunday as milder temperatures brought hope of a respite from wildfires that have ravaged three states, claiming 24 lives and destroying almost 2,000 homes.

Morrison has faced widespread criticism for taking a family vacation in Hawaii at the start of the wildfire crisis, his sometimes distracted approach as it has escalated and his slowness in deploying resources.

On Saturday, Morrison announced that, for the first time in Australian history, 3,000 army, navy and air force reservists will

be thrown into the battle against the fires. He also committed \$14 million to leasing fire-fighting aircraft from overseas.

But those decisions attracted complaints that he had taken too long to act as fires have burned through millions of acres in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, an area twice the size of Maryland.

Morrison told a news conference Sunday the war was not the time for blame.

"There has been a lot of blame being thrown around," Morrison said. "And now is the time to focus on the response that is being made. ... Blame doesn't help anybody at this time and over-analysis of these things is not a productive exercise."

Cooler temperatures and lighter winds on Sunday brought some



Rick Rycroft/AP

A firefighter manages a controlled burn to help contain a larger fire Sunday near Falls Creek, Australia.

relief to threatened communities, a day after thousands were forced to flee as flames reached the suburban fringes of Sydney.

Thousands of firefighters fought to contain the blazes but many continued to burn out of control, threatening to wipe out rural townships and causing almost incalculable damage to property and wildlife.

As dawn broke over a blackened landscape Sunday, a picture emerged of disaster of unprecedented scale. The Rural Fire Service said 150 fires were active in the state, 64 of them uncontrolled.

The latest fatality occurred at Batlow in New South Wales, where a 47-year-old man died Saturday night while defending the home of a friend from encroaching fires. New South Wales police said the man was found unconscious in a vehicle and could not be revived.

Earlier Saturday, a father and son who were battling flames for two days died on a highway on Kangaroo Island, off South Australia state. Authorities identified them as Dick Lang, 78, an acclaimed bush pilot and outback safari operator, and his 43-year-old son, Clayton.

7 new cases of respiratory illness seen in Hong Kong

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's health and food secretary said Sunday that seven more people are being treated for a possible viral pneumonia.

With the newly reported cases, authorities believe a total of 15 patients in Hong Kong may have contracted a mysterious respiratory disease that has infected at least 44 people in the mainland Chinese city of Wuhan. As of Friday, 11 of the 44 were in critical condition.

The outbreak, which emerged last month, has revived memories of the 2002-03 SARS epidemic that started in southern China and killed more than 700 people in mainland China, Hong Kong and elsewhere.

Hong Kong health chief, Sophia Chan, said the seven newly reported patients were in stable condition. Hospitals and doctors have been directed to report cases of fever in any one who has traveled to Wuhan in the past 14 days, she said.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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FACES

Study: 2019 a banner year for female filmmakers

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

Lulu Wang, Lorene Scafaria, Melina Matsoukas and Greta Gerwig led Hollywood to a record year for women in the director's chair. In 2019, women directed more of the most popular movies than any year before.

Women directed 12 of 2019's top 100-grossing films in 2019, according to a study released Jan. 2 by USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative. That percentage of female filmmakers, 10.6%, is greater than researchers have recorded before, suggesting that some measure of change is finally coming to a film industry where inequality behind the camera has remained stubbornly persistent.

It's the most meaningful increase in several decades for female directors. Despite mounting outcry, the rate of female directors helming Hollywood's top productions has long been largely stagnant. The previous high in USC's annual study was 8%, in 2008. In 2018, only 4.5% of the year's top films were directed by women.

"This is the first time we have seen a shift in hiring practices for female film directors in 13 years," said Stacy L. Smith, one of the study's authors. "One notable reason for this jump in 2019 was that Universal Pictures had five films with women directors at the helm in the top 100 movies. Yet there is still much more progress needed to reach parity for women behind the camera."



Wang

Gerwig

Scafaria

Matsoukas

The high-profile success of several films had already made 2019 a historic one for women. Those include Wang's "The Farewell," one of the year's most popular indie releases; Scafaria's acclaimed "Hustlers" (\$105 million domestically); Matsoukas' "Queen & Slim" (\$40.7 million); and Gerwig's "Little Women," which last week opened strongly with \$29 million in its first five days of release.

"Frozen II," with \$1.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales, is close to setting a new box-office record for a movie directed by a woman. Jennifer Lee, who co-directed the film, set the record with the first "Frozen" film. In 2018, Lee became the chief creative officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Other notable films included Kasi Lemmons' "Harriet,"

Tina Gordon's "Little" and Jill Culton's "Abominable."

USC researchers singled out Universal Pictures, which put forward a slate of films with 26% directed by women. Universal is the only major studio with a female studio chief, Donna Langley.

Netflix also fared well. While the streaming company's films largely bypass theaters — leaving them outside the study's parameters — 20% of Netflix's 2019 movies were directed by women.

Paramount Pictures, however, hasn't released a movie directed by a woman in the past five years.

Four women of color directed one of the top 100 movies in 2019, though the overall statistics for underrepresented directors dipped. Underrepresented filmmakers were behind 16.8% of films in 2019, a decline from last year's 21.4%, a record.

"While 2019 is a banner year for women, we will not be able to say there is true change until women have access and opportunity to work at this level," said Smith.

Despite gains, female filmmakers have been largely overlooked in this awards season. Sunday's Golden Globes, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, includes no women nominated for best director. None of the 10 films nominated for best picture were directed by women, either.

'Jeopardy!' titans vie for \$1 million, 'Greatest' title

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

The Super Bowl is weeks away, but for "Jeopardy!" addicts the big game is here: All-time top money winners Brad Rutter, Ken Jennings and James Holzhauer are facing off for ultimate bragging rights.

"The first person to win three matches will be crowned the greatest of all time," said executive producer Harry Friedman. The winner gets \$1 million, with \$250,000 for each runner-up in the contest that airs on consecutive nights beginning 8 p.m. Tuesday state-side (Wednesday overseas on AFN-Prime).

Host Alex Trebek credits the rookie for making "Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time" happen.

The tournament "was a natural because of the appearance of James Holzhauer," Trebek said. "Prior to that, there wasn't a contestant who measured up, in the eyes of our viewers, to Ken Jennings or Brad Rutter. And here comes James, and wins more money faster than anybody else had ever done on the show, and really caught America's fancy."

Friedman said there had been discussions about a rare prime-time foray for "Jeopardy!," but the format was proving elusive until professional sports gambler Holzhauer steamrolled his way to glory in 2019 with his smarts, skill and big Daily Double bets. "There was a lot of online chatter about, 'Is he the greatest player of all time?' 'No, Ken Jennings, because he had that streak,' or somebody would say, 'I think it's Brad Rutter; look at how many times he's won.' So it really sort of fell into place," the producer said.

Trebek, who is being treated for pancreatic cancer as he's continued hosting regular "Jeopardy!" games, wasn't asked directly if he was up to handling the championship series as well.

"We discussed the idea of this competition with him because we wanted to make sure that he supported it as a concept, first and foremost. And he said, 'Oh yeah, let's do.' Enthusiastically," Friedman said.

"It's pretty tough," Trebek said. He was "struggling a bit" during the taping, he said, adding, "Well, it comes with the territory.")



Eric McCandless, ABC/AP

From left: Contestants James Holzhauer, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter appear on the set of "Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time," in Los Angeles. The three are the all-time top "Jeopardy!" money winners and will compete head to head this week.

The high-profile contest took place in December. To keep the outcome a mystery, an ABC release has it running through Jan. 16 "if necessary."

For Jennings, knowing who he would face was both stressful — "Usually, it's anybody's guess who makes the finals" — and helpful.

"I could look at tape of them, and they're both extremely scary players, one of whom (Rutter) I've played before. He usually finds a way to win. So I knew these were just going to be the fastest, smartest people I've ever seen holding a 'Jeopardy!' buzzer," Jennings said.

Holzhauer also did his homework.

"I studied some more esoteric facts with the expectation that the writers would ramp up the question difficulty, but the big thing I did to prepare was extra reps of buzzer practice, knowing that Brad and Ken are the two best in the history of the show on the signaling device," he said in an email.

It feels "crazy to be compared to the two best players that ever came before me, but I know I can hang with them," Holzhauer said. "One nice factor is that the three of us can have fun trash talking without anyone 'punching down.'"

Rutter considers the players to be evenly matched in their skills.

"It's really all about buzzer timing and knowledge, and all of us are pretty good at that," he said. "Personality-wise, I think Ken is probably the jokiest of the three, like he throws little quips in, and I'm a little too focused. ... James is also ready with the quips, but he's got the analytical thing down, too."

"But we all put a bunch of strategy into it," Rutter said. Any chance he'd share his? "Tune in to find out."

Rutter enters the contest as the top winner on any TV game show with \$4.69 million in "Jeopardy!" play. Jennings holds the winning-streak record, 74 games, and has collected \$3.37 million. Holzhauer set and broke more than a dozen records for the largest single-day winnings, won the 2019 Tournament of Champions and earned \$2.7 million in winnings.

Rutter is the veteran player, making his first "Jeopardy!" appearance nearly 20 years ago, in October 2000, when champs were "retired" from regular-season play after five victories. Jennings' first game was in June 2004, a year after the rules were changed to allow players to rack up unlimited wins.

'Surviving R. Kelly' series explores aftermath of illegal marriage to Aaliyah

Few close to R&B singer Aaliyah have publicly commented on the interactions she had with R. Kelly. But on the Jan. 2 installment of the new Lifetime docuseries "Surviving R. Kelly — Part II: The Reckoning," Aaliyah's former boyfriend, producer Damon Dash, provided a glimpse into Kelly's impact on the late singer. Kelly, who produced Aaliyah's popular "Age Ain't Nothing but a Number" album, was 27 when he illegally married his 15-year-old protegee. The marriage quickly ended after Aaliyah told her parents, and it was annulled.

The union soon became public knowledge. Dash, who was dating Aaliyah at the time of her death in a 2001 plane crash, told the Lifetime producers "that was a headline. That was something talked about, like it was normal."

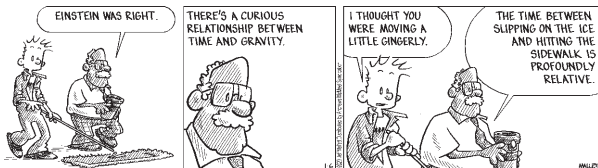
"She just said he was a bad man, she left it at that," Dash said. Aaliyah didn't want him to know details for fear of how he would react, he added, and "I had to get therapy over that."

Dash said: "If people would have protected Aaliyah, so many other girls wouldn't have gotten touched. Aaliyah was the sacrificial lamb for all that, because she didn't deserve none of that. She's a good, good soul, good girl, wasn't even so resentful, like, 'let that man live but keep him away from me.' That's all she wanted. She was so happy to be away."

Sexual misconduct accusations have followed R. Kelly for years and were explored Lifetime's 2019 "Surviving R. Kelly" docuseries. The six-part program, one of Lifetime's most highly rated in years, sparked renewed interest in the allegations. In the aftermath of the documentary, Chicago prosecutors asked for witnesses or victims to come forward.

From The Washington Post

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



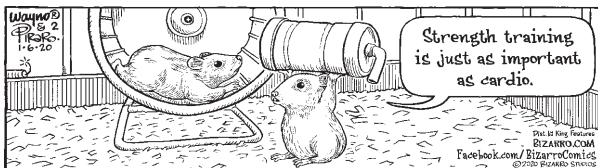
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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15									16			
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41					42	43			44	45	46	
47					48							
49					50				51			

ACROSS

- 1 — vu
- 5 Goal
- 8 "Waterloo" group
- 12 Actress Rossellini
- 14 Golf bag item
- 15 Mix up
- 16 Ringlet
- 17 Aunt, in Acapulco
- 18 Somnolent
- 20 Sound of Washington
- 23 Dance move
- 24 Poker variety
- 25 Satisfy an itch
- 28 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 29 A Great Lake
- 30 With it, once
- 32 Skin abrasions
- 34 Lima's land
- 35 Use a sponge
- 36 Vice President Burr
- 37 Hawaiian "thank you"
- 40 Vichy water
- 41 Algerian seaport
- 42 Pennsylvania city
- 47 Kite flier's need
- 48 Swimmer's woes
- 49 Zilch
- 50 Hosp. workers
- 51 Olympian queen

DOWN

- 1 Insult, slangily
- 2 PC key
- 3 Honey holder
- 4 Lessened
- 5 Goya's duchess
- 6 Under the weather
- 7 Orchestra leaders
- 8 Take
- 9 Sad
- 10 Baby-feeding finale
- 11 With skill
- 13 Send forth
- 19 Low-fat
- 20 Calif. clock setting
- 21 Western tribe
- 22 Avocado dip, for short
- 23 Rocky debris
- 25 Imagined
- 26 "Believe" singer
- 27 Protagonist
- 29 Greet
- 31 Bit of wit
- 33 Kigali's land
- 34 Beer gut
- 36 Tiny battery
- 37 Cut, as a lawn
- 38 Opera house solo
- 39 Round of applause
- 40 Messes up
- 43 Automobile
- 44 Fill in — blank
- 45 Not 'neath
- 46 Code-breaking gp.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	R	P		S	O	A	K		W	A	X
A	L	A	I		A	N	N	E		E	R	R
R	E	U	P		M	E	T	A		A	N	A
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I	T	O		M	E	N	U		A	Q	U	I
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1-6

CRYPTOQUIP

SDLQEA QNH-PYLW PGWDPWF

DMH SYNL DVPQF KYPG D

TMDVT SQF PFYJJWFYMJ KWP

KWDPGWF: VNQEH FDYMA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A FELLOW WENT TO THE STORE AND BOUGHT A SIGNAL LIGHT, I ASSUME HE'D BRING HOME THE BEACON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

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OMBDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Trump's message to Iran's terrorist regime

By Eli Lake
Bloomberg Opinion

For 40 years American presidents have pondered a fundamental question about Iran, best summed up by Henry Kissinger: Is it a country or a cause? Last week, Donald Trump gave his answer: Iran is a cause, a terrorist cause, and it will be treated as such.

That could be the lasting implication of the drone strike Trump ordered that killed Iran's indispensable Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani. Since Jimmy Carter, U.S. presidents have sanctioned Iran and its leaders for sponsoring terrorist groups responsible for mayhem and murder worldwide. Until last week, however, those leaders have been spared the grisly fate of Osama bin Laden or Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Nation-states are generally expected to cooperate against terrorists, but with Soleimani's leadership, Iran has been a major facilitator of terror. Starting in 2003, he built up a network of proxies throughout the Middle East that tipped the balance of power in Iran's favor. Under his command, Shiite militias were organized or killed thousands of U.S. troops with powerful roadside bombs. He orchestrated the arming and training of Yemen's Houthi rebellion. He planned the intervention in Syria that saved Bashar Assad's brutal war machine. He helped plan the Iraqi government's crackdown against anti-Iranian protesters.

And yet Soleimani saw himself as untouchable. He did not take the precautions of a marked man, cloaking his movements and hiding his location. In fact, he would often post selfies from various

fronts in Iran's regional war, taunting his adversaries.

In some ways, this drone strike is surprising. In June, Trump called off at the last minute a strike on Iranian positions after it shot down an unmanned U.S. drone over the Persian Gulf. Over the summer and into the fall, Trump escalated sanctions against Iran's regime, but also tried to restart negotiations with its political leaders. He has railed against the "endless wars" waged by his predecessors and sought to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria.

Iran has responded to this economic pressure with military escalations. In September, the U.S. accused Iran of striking a major Saudi oil processing facility. This followed a series of Iranian attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. In October, Iranian-backed Shiite militias began hitting U.S. positions in Iraq. Those attacks have become bold in recent months, culminating in a recent attack in Kirkuk that killed a U.S. contractor and wounded several U.S. servicemen.

That crossed a red line for Trump. He has warned the Iranian regime since last spring that such an escalation would lead to any attack that killed a U.S. citizen. The U.S. responded last week by bombing Kaateb Hezbollah bases in western Iraq and Syria. Then Iranian-led militias stormed the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Wednesday, setting fires and essentially holding the embassy hostage for 24 hours before retreating. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper issued a presidential warning after the siege. "If we get word of attacks," he said, "we will take preemptive action as well to protect American forces, to protect American lives."

Trump upped the ante. Is he ready for what follows?

By Max Boot

The Washington Post

The United States has been locked in an escalating confrontation with Iran ever since President Donald Trump decided to pull out of the nuclear deal in 2018 and to impose unilateral sanctions in 2019. The latest and most dangerous episode has played out over the past week: Kaateb Hezbollah, a pro-Iran militia, fired rockets at a military base in Iraq, killing a contractor and wounding four troops. Trump responded with airstrikes that killed 25 members of the militia. Kaateb bin al-Mohandes, the founder of Kaateb Hezbollah, and Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian Quds Force, which sponsors Kaateb Hezbollah and numerous other proxies around the region.

Little did I or anyone else suspect that Trump's next move would be an airstrike that killed Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, the founder of Kaateb Hezbollah, and Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian Quds Force, which sponsors Kaateb Hezbollah and numerous other proxies around the region.

Soleimani's death has been compared to that of terrorist leaders such as Osama bin Laden and Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi. Soleimani was as evil as those men — he has the blood of hundreds of Americans and thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of Arabs on his hands — but the comparison is misleading. Soleimani was not the leader of a stateless terrorist organization. He was one of the most powerful figures in the Iranian government. His death makes him the highest-ranking foreign military commander assassinated by the United States since the shoot-down in 1943 of an airplane carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the architect of the Pearl Harbor attack.

This is a major, unexpected development whose full import no one can predict. In

the near term, Soleimani's death provides a political boost to Trump by allowing him to change the subject from Iran to the moment. In 2012, Trump tweeted, "Don't let Obama play the Iran card in order to start a war in order to get elected." Is this another case of Trumpian projection?

Beyond the immediate political payoff, there is a larger benefit here for Trump's impulsive approach. After 19 years, most of the world had written him off as a Twitter tiger — someone who talks big but shies away from conflict. His lack of a response to Iran's attack on a Saudi oil facility in September reinforced that reputation. This attack disrupts that narrative, showing Trump is serious about enforcing his red line against killing Americans and creating a measure of deterrence. Other international actors, including North Korea, will now be more wary of provoking Trump.

But the death of Soleimani, contrary to a Pentagon news release, was a hardly a "decisive blow" or a "game-changer," as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told CNN on Friday, it will not necessarily make Americans safer. Indeed, the fact that the State Department is telling all Americans to evacuate Iraq suggests otherwise.

Charles de Gaulle supposedly said, "The bravest of all Muscovites is death," and Soleimani was perhaps the most important man in the Middle East, but even he can be replaced. Indeed, Iran has already appointed its deputy to fill his position, although it remains to be seen if the little-known Maj. Gen. Esmail Ghaani will be as effective. The history of decapitation strikes — such as Israel's 1992 killing of Hezbollah Secretary General Abbas al-Musawi or the joint U.S.-Israeli operation to kill Hezbollah military chief Imad Mughniyah in 2008 — suggests that they seldom debilitate the targeted organization and sometimes backfire. al-Musawi's death, for example, led to the emergence of Hassan Nasrallah,

the consequence is that the man who orchestrated terror on behalf of Iran has met the same fate as the terrorists he oversaw. This counts as a significant escalation; Iran's supreme leader has already vowed revenge. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has urged Shiite militias in Iraq not to let Soleimani's death go to waste.

And Iran has many options for retaliation. Its militias have enough rockets to turn the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad into rubble. Its proxies are capable of kidnappings, suicide bombs and other mayhem against soft-spoken American targets in Europe. Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia and political party created by Iran in the 1980s, controls some networks inside the U.S.

That's not to say the U.S. attack was unjustified. Soleimani was "actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members in Iraq across throughout the region," the Pentagon said in a statement Thursday. "This strike was aimed at deterring future Iranian attack plans."

So it's misleading to say that the killing of Soleimani is the opening of a new U.S. war against Iran. It's more accurate to say that the blow has been to Iran's network of militias and terrorists. It's also a blow to the regime's campaign to bully the world into treating it like a normal country. Iran is a country run by terrorists, and Trump is right to treat them as such.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy.

an even more dangerous leader.

Israel's practice when assassinating terrorist leaders has been to let its actions do its talking. By neither confirming nor denying responsibility, Israel gives itself plausible deniability and its enemies an off-ramp from further escalation. That is not Trump's way. The Pentagon news release specified that Soleimani's death was ordered "at the direction of the President." This further increases the pressure on Iran to retaliate, as its leaders have repeatedly vowed to do.

It is difficult to see how Soleimani's death, justified as it was, will trigger regime change in Tehran, as former national security adviser John Bolton suggested. This further increases the pressure on Iran to retaliate, as its leaders have repeatedly vowed to do. It is difficult to see how Soleimani's death, justified as it was, will trigger regime change in Tehran, as former national security adviser John Bolton suggested. This further increases the pressure on Iran to retaliate, as its leaders have repeatedly vowed to do. It is difficult to see how Soleimani's death, justified as it was, will trigger regime change in Tehran, as former national security adviser John Bolton suggested. This further increases the pressure on Iran to retaliate, as its leaders have repeatedly vowed to do.

One would hope that at this moment of peril the U.S. would be led by sober, experienced leaders presiding over a well-oiled national security decision-making process. But that is clearly not what we have. Many experts have long feared how Trump would react in a genuine, no-kidding crisis. We are now about to find out.

Washington Post columnist Max Boot is the Jeanie J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Saturday's transactions

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
NBA — Fired Washington G Isaiah Thomas \$25,000 for making inappropriate contact with a game official.
ATLANTA HAWKS — Transferred F Charlie Brown Jr. to College Park (NBALG).

FOOTBALL

National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Re-signed DB Eddie Jackson to a four-year contract extension.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
ANAHIM DUCKS — Recalled RWs Kiefer Sherwood and Daniel Sprong from San Diego (AHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed D Jakim Ryan on IR, retroactive to Dec. 27. Recalled D Derek Forbort from a conditioning assignment with San Jose (AHL). Activated D Alec Martinez from IR.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled F Ben Street from Birmingham (AHL).

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

WASHINGTON SPIRITS — Signed D Brenda Brundick.

COLLEGE

PENN STATE — Named Phil Trautwein offensive line coach.

RUTGERS — Named Sean Gleeson offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach.

WISCONSIN — RB Jonathan Taylor declared for the NFL Draft.

Golf

Tournament of Champions

at Plantation Course at Kapalua
Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii
Purse: \$5.7 million
Yardage: 7,996 Par 73
Third Round

Xander Schauffele	69-68-71-208-11
Justin Thomas	67-73-69-209-11
Tony Finau	72-69-69-211-7
Kevin Kisner	72-72-68-212-7
Matthew Wolff	72-72-72-212-7
Collin Morikawa	71-71-70-212-7
J.J. Poston	70-71-71-212-7
Patrick Cantlay	69-72-71-212-7
Jojo Niemann	66-72-74-212-7
Sam Burns	70-71-71-212-7
Matt Kuchar	68-74-71-213-6
Nate Lashley	71-71-71-213-6
Patrick Reed	70-71-71-213-6
Rickie Fowler	68-71-74-213-6
Dustin Johnson	71-71-71-213-6
Lanto Griffin	71-71-72-214-5
Jyleen Duncan	69-73-75-215-4
Jim Herman	74-72-69-215-4
Paul Casey	72-74-69-215-4
Corey Conners	73-70-74-217-2
Samuel Jurgen	72-73-74-217-2
Sung Kang	72-73-73-218-3
Cheez Reavie	74-71-73-218-3
Ryan Palmer	71-72-73-218-3
Sebastian Munoz	72-75-72-219-8
Adam Long	72-73-73-219-8
Graeme McDowell	74-69-76-219-8
Adam Long	74-73-72-220-11
Keith Mitchell	76-71-72-221-3
Dylan Fritzel	72-77-73-222-3
B. J. Kim	72-73-73-225-6
Kevin Na	76-74-77-227-9
Martin Trautner	74-77-71-228-9

College hockey

Saturday's scores

EAST

Maine 3, Omaha 2
 Canisius 5, RIT 3
 Rutgers 7, Mercyhurst 2
 Penn State 2, Niagara 0
 RPI 3, Lawrence 0
 Quinnipiac 5, Dartmouth 1
 Clarkson 2, Union 0
 New Hampshire 5, Vermont 3
 UMass Lowell 3, Merrimack 1

MIDWEST

North Dakota 5, Ala. Huntsville 2
 N. Michigan 4, Bowling Green 3, OT
 N. Dakota State 3, N. Iowa 2
 Minnesota State 3, Alaska 1

WEST

American International 5, Air Force 1
 Cornell 2, Providence 2, TIE
 UIC 3, UMass 3
 Arizona State 4, Michigan Tech 3
 Alaska Anchorage 2, Lake Superior 2

EXHIBITION

Ontario Tech 4, Robert Morris 2

College basketball

Saturday's men's scores

EAST

Adelphi 94, New Haven 91
 Marquette 74, Binghamton 62
 Albertus Magnus 76, York (Pa.) 73
 Albright 74, Stevenson 66
 Allegheny 76, Walsh 70
 Amherst 116, Lesley 44
 Binghamton 85, Molloy 79
 Bentley 76, St. Anselm 65
 Bowie State 73, Winston-Salem 72
 Bridgewater Mass. 87, Colby-Sawyer 71
 Christopher Newport 92, Widener 81
 Cortland 52, Colby 62
 Curry 62, Nazarene 64
 Delhi St. SUNY-Canton 54
 Elizabethtown 74, St. Mary's (Md.) 71
 Fairmont St. 123, Carlow 48
 Franklin & Marshall 62, Neumann 59
 Princeton Pierce 77, St. Michael's 74
 Georgian Court 53, Nyack 80
 Gettysburg 63, Michigan 52
 Hartford 61, New Hampshire 52
 Hartwick 73, Elmira 64

MIDWEST

Hofstra 72, UIC Irvine 73
 Illinois 73, Ursinus 33
 Indiana 102, Iona 75
 Houghton 83, SUNY-ESF 61
 Illinois 69, D'Youville 79
 Jefferson 67, Felician 62
 La Roche 90, D'Youville 79
 Lincoln (Pa.) 83, Livingstone 83
 Mass. College 95, Norwich 76
 Miami 72, Edgewood 52
 Connecticut 58
 Morgan St. 85, UMass 63
 Morgan St. 81, Delaware St. 68
 New Jersey 66, St. Mary's 67
 Mount St. Mary's 82, UIC Brooklyn 73

SOUTH

Muhlenberg 95, Sarah Lawrence 85
 N. Illinois 73, Buffalo 72
 Canath 87, Penn St.-Harrisburg 82
 New England Coll. 116, Lincoln St. 75
 St. Francis 87, Marist 80
 Notre Dame 88, Syracuse 87
 Ohio Dominican 88, Alderson-Broaddus 82
 Oswego St. 84, Montclair St. 73
 Penn St. Behrend 81, Franciscan 70
 Greensburg 76, Pitt 64
 St. John's 101, Holy Family 58
 Princeton 78, Penn 69
 Purchase 92, NY Maritime 79
 Salisbury 89, Merrimack 58
 S. Connecticut 64, Pace 61
 Robert Morris 86, Worcester St. 69
 Sciences (Pa.) 72, Concordia (N.Y.) 65
 St. Francis (Pa.) 63, St. Mary's 62
 St. Joseph's (L.I.) 63, William Paterson 70

SOUTH

St. Thomas Aquinas 85, St. Rose 79
 Duquesne 82, Daemen 77
 Trinity (Conn.) 87, Anna Maria 76
 Tufts 75, Nichols 65
 W. Virginia 77, Suffolk 59
 Wake Forest 49, Pittsburgh 65
 West Virginia 89, Mount St. Vincent 68
 William 86, Susquehanna 84
 Wilkes & Mary 66, Northeastern 64
 Worcester Tech 90, Framingham 58
SOUTH
 Appalachian St. 74, Georgia Southern 78
 Ark.-Pine Bluff 80, MSU 76
 Arkansas 76, Mississippi 68
 Austin Peay 92, UT Martin 63
 Belmont 67, E. Illinois 55
 Charlotte 88, Middle Tennessee 62
 Chattanooga 70, Mercer 61
 Clemson 81, NC State 70
 Coastal Carolina 74, Georgia St. 72
 Col. of Charleston 85, James Madison 58

SOUTH

FAU 59, UTEP 56
 Florida St. 78, Louisiana 65
 Furman 65, ETSU 56
 Georgia 85, Memphis 62
 Jacksonville St. 80, E. Kentucky 71
 Kentucky 71, Missouri 59
 Louisiana 65, Tennessee 67
 Louisiana-Monroe 69, South Alabama 66
 Morehead St. 83, Tennessee Tech 72
 Central 61, Florida A&M 69
 North Florida 81, North Alabama 65
 Piedmont 85, NC Wesleyan 74
 Richmond 73, High Point 69
 SC State 79, Coppin 75
 South Florida 75, UConn 60
 Tulane 76, Cincinnati 71
 Virginia Tech 91, Virginia Tech 39
 Carolina 88, The Citadel 82
 Wingo 87, Campbell 80

MIDWEST

Akron 69, E. Michigan 45
 Albion 74, Case Western 68
 Alia 97, Findland 82
 Anderson (Ind.) 67, Earlham 59
 Benedictine (Ill.) 66, North (Wyo.) 35
 Bethel (Maine) 84, St. Mary's (Maine.) 52
 Bluffton 87, Transylvania 78
 Butler 71, Creighton 57
 Carleton 68, Macalester 54
 Cent. Michigan 93, Miami (Ohio) 82
 Chicago 85, St. Francis 69
 Cleveland 52, Youngstown St. 74
 Concordia (Minn.) 66, St. Thomas (Minn.) 68
 DePaul 75, Hiram 69
 Denison 67, Oberlin 63
 Eastern Ill. 81, St. Aurora 69
 Drake 68, Indiana 76
 Duquesne 82, MacMurray 61
 Franklin 83, DePaul 64
 Grinnell 20, Lawrence 15
 Heidelberg 68, Mount Union 67
 Illinois Tech 83, Concordia (Wisc.) 74
 Indiana 85, Indiana 85
 John Carroll 85, Ohio Northern 72
 Kansas 60, Western 53

Marquette 71, Villanova 60
 Milwaukee Engineering 95, Lakeland 52

MIDWEST

Monmouth (Ill.) 70, Beloit 60
 Morgan 58, Wayne (Ohio) 55
 Ohio Wesleyan 65, Wooster 60
 Otterbein 88, Muskingum 71
 Providence 65, DePaul 65
 Rockford 82, Concordia (Ill.) 80
 St. Francis 78, St. Benedict 65
 S. Dakota St. 91, W. Illinois 56
 St. John's (Ind.) 82, Augsburg 63
 St. Norbert 68, Knox 63
 St. Olaf 84, Gustavus 68
 UMKC 65, Utah Valley 66
 Valparaiso 81, Evansville 79
 Valparaiso 85, North Central (Minn.) 72
 W. Michigan 71, Ohio 70
 Wartburg 95, Dubuque 75
 Webster 76, Fontbonne 65
 Westminster (Mo.) 94, Principia 81
 Wisconsin 85, North Central (Ill.) 20
 Wichita St. 74, Mississippi 54
 Wis.-Lutheran 89, Edgewood 72
 Wis.-Eau Claire 65, Wis.-Whitewater 59
 Wis.-Platteville 31, Wis.-Stout 23
 Wittenberg 75, Kenyon 69

SOUTHWEST

Angelo St. 52, W. New Mexico 79
 Arkansas 69, Texas A&M 59
 Arkansas Tech 94, East Central 86
 Baylor 59, Texas 54
 Cameron 71, Texas-Tyler 57
 Cent. Arkansas 79, McNeese 52
 Dallas Baptist 72, Texas A&M-Kingsville 66
 Henderson St. 74, S. Nazarene 55
 Lubbock Christian 72, Texas-Permian 65
 Mass. Boston 57
 Nicholls 70, San Houston 51
 Northwest 66, St. Francis 66
 Oklahoma Baptist 80, Ouachita 62
 Oklahoma St. 79, Christ 70
 St. Mary's (Texas) 60
 St. Paul 84, Alcorn St. 71
 St. Stephens 80, Harding 64
 St. Edward's 93, Ark.-Forth Smith 75
 St. Louis 52, Texas 78
 Texas A&M Commerce 85, Midwestern 88
 Texas A&M-CC 81, St. Louis 79
 Texas St. 70, Arkansas 67
 Texas Tech 88, Oklahoma St. 50
 UALR 92, Texas-Arlington 89

SOUTHWEST

Arizona 75, Arizona St. 47
 Baylor 85, Texas Tech 85
 Arizona Pacific 98, Notre Dame de Namur 86
 BYU 63, Loyola Marymount 38
 Biola 113, Chaminade 107
 Cal State Fullerton 85, St. Catherine 75
 CS San Bernardino 67, Sonoma St. 63
 Cal State Marcos 91, CS Monterey 83
 CSU-Chico 83, CS Dominguez Hills 61
 Cal Lutheran 68, Redlands 65
 Cal Poly Pomona 66, San Francisco 51
 St. Thomas Aquinas 85, St. Rose 79
 Duquesne 82, Daemen 77
 Trinity (Conn.) 87, Anna Maria 76
 Tufts 75, Nichols 65
 W. Virginia 77, Suffolk 59
 Wake Forest 49, Pittsburgh 65
 West Virginia 89, Mount St. Vincent 68
 William 86, Susquehanna 84
 Wilkes & Mary 66, Northeastern 64
 Worcester Tech 90, Framingham 58
SOUTH
 Appalachian St. 74, Georgia Southern 78
 Ark.-Pine Bluff 80, MSU 76
 Arkansas 76, Mississippi 68
 Austin Peay 92, UT Martin 63
 Belmont 67, E. Illinois 55
 Charlotte 88, Middle Tennessee 62
 Chattanooga 70, Mercer 61
 Clemson 81, NC State 70
 Coastal Carolina 74, Georgia St. 72
 Col. of Charleston 85, James Madison 58

SOUTH

FAU 59, UTEP 56
 Florida St. 78, Louisiana 65
 Furman 65, ETSU 56
 Georgia 85, Memphis 62
 Jacksonville St. 80, E. Kentucky 71
 Kentucky 71, Missouri 59
 Louisiana 65, Tennessee 67
 Louisiana-Monroe 69, South Alabama 66
 Morehead St. 83, Tennessee Tech 72
 Central 61, Florida A&M 69
 North Florida 81, North Alabama 65
 Piedmont 85, NC Wesleyan 74
 Richmond 73, High Point 69
 SC State 79, Coppin 75
 South Florida 75, UConn 60
 Tulane 76, Cincinnati 71
 Virginia Tech 91, Virginia Tech 39
 Carolina 88, The Citadel 82
 Wingo 87, Campbell 80

MIDWEST

Akron 69, E. Michigan 45
 Albion 74, Case Western 68
 Alia 97, Findland 82
 Anderson (Ind.) 67, Earlham 59
 Benedictine (Ill.) 66, North (Wyo.) 35
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 Carleton 68, Macalester 54
 Cent. Michigan 93, Miami (Ohio) 82
 Chicago 85, St. Francis 69
 Cleveland 52, Youngstown St. 74
 Concordia (Minn.) 66, St. Thomas (Minn.) 68
 DePaul 75, Hiram 69
 Denison 67, Oberlin 63
 Eastern Ill. 81, St. Aurora 69
 Drake 68, Indiana 76
 Duquesne 82, MacMurray 61
 Franklin 83, DePaul 64
 Grinnell 20, Lawrence 15
 Heidelberg 68, Mount Union 67
 Illinois Tech 83, Concordia (Wisc.) 74
 Indiana 85, Indiana 85
 John Carroll 85, Ohio Northern 72
 Kansas 60, Western 53

Manhattan 68, Niagara 65
 Marist 96, St. Peter's 76
 Merchant Marine 71, St. Joseph's (LI) 46

MIDWEST

Misericordia 76, Lebanon Valley 53
 Mount St. Mary's 75, UIC Brooklyn 57
 New England 63, Middlebury 61
 New England Coll. 116, Mitchell 52
 Notre Dame (Md.) 79, Cairn 63
 North Carolina 73, Hanover 65
 Ohio Dominican 66, Alderson-Broaddus 60
 Pace 61
 Quinnipiac 66, Siena 52
 Rhode Island Coll. 68, Castleton 49
 Rider 81, Iona 37
 St. Francis 75, St. Joseph's 75
 Roberts Wesleyan 102, Cheyney 32
 S. Maine 43, Keene St. 41
 Sacred Heart 73, Wagner 65
 Saint Joseph's 67, Richmond 56
 Saint Joseph's 67, Franklin Pierce 57
 State Island 71, John Jay 58
 Suffolk 68, Sage 60
 Swarthmore 74, Franklin & Marshall 51
 Adams 48, Duquesne 43
 VCU 75, Rhode Island 54
 W. Connecticut 89, Plymouth St. 51
 W. New England 56, Trinity (Conn.) 54
 WPI 89, Westfield 82
 W. Virginia 67, McNeese 52
 Wesleyley 64, Nichols 52
 Westchester 64, Mount Holyoke 45
 Belmont 69, E. Illinois 47
 Westminster (Pa.) 72, Washington & Jefferson 66
 Wilmington (Del.) 66, Bloomfield 59

SOUTH

Ark.-Pine Bluff 80, MSU 76
 Augusta 95, Clayton St. 81
 Belmont 69, E. Illinois 47
 Benedict 54, Tuskegee 52
 Central 61, E. Illinois 47
 Cent. Arkansas 70, McNeese 57
 Cleveland 52, N. Kentucky 68
 Cleveland 52, N. Kentucky 68
 Columbus St. 74, Francis Marion 51
 Ford 49, Lynn 55
 Emmanuel (Ga.) 77, Chowan 55
 Texas A&M-CC 81, St. Louis 79
 Georgia Southern 80, Georgia Washington 89

SOUTHWEST

Georgia 85, Memphis 62
 Jacksonville St. 80, E. Kentucky 71
 Kentucky 71, Missouri 59
 Louisiana 65, Tennessee 67
 Louisiana-Monroe 69, South Alabama 66
 Morehead St. 83, Tennessee Tech 72
 Central 61, Florida A&M 69
 North Florida 81, North Alabama 65
 Piedmont 85, NC Wesleyan 74
 Richmond 73, High Point 69
 SC State 79, Coppin 75
 South Florida 75, UConn 60
 Tulane 76, Cincinnati 71
 Virginia Tech 91, Virginia Tech 39
 Carolina 88, The Citadel 82
 Wingo 87, Campbell 80

MIDWEST

Ball St. 66, Miami (Ohio) 72
 Butler 78, Xavier 70
 Cent. Michigan 77, Akron 72
 E. Michigan 78, Bowling Green 56
 E. Michigan 78, St. Leo Superior 57
 Green Bay 61, Milwaukee 48
 IUPUI 82, Detroit 45
 Ball 66, Miami (Ohio) 72
 Butler 78, Xavier 70
 Cent. Michigan 77, Akron 72
 E. Michigan 78, Bowling Green 56
 E. Michigan 78, St. Leo Superior 57
 Green Bay 61, Milwaukee 48
 IUPUI 82, Detroit 45
 Ball 66, Miami (Ohio) 72
 Butler 78, Xavier 70
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 E. Michigan 78, Bowling Green 56
 E. Michigan 78, St. Leo Superior 57
 Green Bay 61, Milwaukee 48
 IUPUI 82, Detroit 45

SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Pine Bluff 80, MSU 76
 Arkansas 76, Mississippi 68
 Austin Peay 92, UT Martin 63
 Belmont 67, E. Illinois 55
 Charlotte 88, Middle Tennessee 62
 Chattanooga 70, Mercer 61
 Clemson 81, NC State 70
 Coastal Carolina 74, Georgia St. 72
 Col. of Charleston 85, James Madison 58

College football

Bowl schedule

Friday, Dec. 20
Bahamas Bowl
 Buffalo 31, Charlotte 27
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
 Kent State 51, Utah State 41
Celebration Bowl
 NC A&T 34, Georgia College 34
New Mexico Bowl
 San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11
Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16
Arizona State 21, UAB 17
Dec. 25, SMU 28
Boca Raton Bowl
 Arkansas State 34, FIU 26
Las Vegas Bowl
 Washington State 31, Boise State 17
New Orleans Bowl
 Appalachian St. 21, UAB 17
Monday, Dec. 23
Gasparilla Bowl
 UCF 48, North Carolina 37
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii 38, BYU 34
Thursday, Dec. 25
Independence Bowl
 Louisiana Tech 14, Miami 0
Quick Lane Bowl
 Pittsburgh 34, Eastern Michigan 30

Military Bowl

North Carolina 55, Temple 13
 Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21
 Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma State 24
 Iowa 49, Southern Cal 24
Cheez-It Bowl
 Air Force 31, Washington State 28
Camping World Bowl
 Orlando, Fla.
 Notre Dame 38, Iowa State 39
Cotton Bowl Classic
 Arlington, Texas
 Penn State 33, Miami 39
Peach Bowl
 LSU 63, Oklahoma 28
Fiesta Bowl
Arizona
 Clemson 29, Ohio State 23
Dec. 30
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
 Western Kentucky 23, Western Michigan 20

Music City Bowl

Nashville, Tenn.
 Louisville 38, Michigan State 38
Redbox Bowl
 Santa Clara, Calif.
 California 25, Tennessee 34
Orange Bowl
 Miami Gardens, Fla.
 Florida 36, Virginia 28
Dec. 31
Bell Bowl
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Kentucky 37, Tennessee 23
San Bowl
 E. Pace, Texas
 Arizona State 20, Florida State 14
Liberty Bowl
 Memphis, Tenn.
 Navy 20, Kansas State 17
Arizona Bowl
 Tucson, Ariz.
 Wyoming 33, Georgia State 17
Alamo Bowl
 San Antonio
 Texas 38, Utah 10
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Marv Levy Bowl
 Orlando, Fla.
 Alabama 31, Wisconsin 16
Outback Bowl
 Tampa, Fla.
 Minnesota 34, Auburn 34
Rose Bowl
 Pasadena, Calif.
 Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27
New Orleans
 Georgia 25, Baylor 14
Jan. 2
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
 Cincinnati 36, Boston College 6
Gator Bowl
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 Tennessee 23, Illinois 20
Friday, Jan. 3
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
 Boise

College football

Ohio 30, Nevada 10
Saturday, Jan. 4
Armed Forces Bowl
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Tulane 30, Southern Miss 13
Monday
Lendingtree Bowl
 Mobile, Ala.
 Miami (Ohio) 63, Louisiana-Lafayette 10-3

College football

Monday, Jan. 13
College Football Championship
 Clemson (14-0) vs. LSU (14-0)
Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
 St. Petersburg, Fla.
East-West Shrine Classic
 St. Petersburg, Fla.
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
 At Pasadena, Calif.
 American Int'l Nat'l vs. E. Washington
NCAA FCS playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 11
At Toyota Stadium
Friday, Dec. 19
 North Dakota State (15-0) vs. James Madison (14-1)

NBA

Grizzlies rout George-less Clippers

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jae Crowder was making shots early, putting him in a rhythm that carried throughout the game.

His Memphis teammates followed right along and took advantage of Los Angeles star Paul George's absence to rout the Clippers 140-114 on Saturday.

The Grizzlies never scored less than 25 points in each quarter.

"We controlled the tempo and got off to a big first quarter and scored 40 points," said Crowder, who scored 27 points. "We've had big leads this year and lost them, so we stayed aggressive and continued to contest the rim."

Jaren Jackson Jr. added 24 points, and Ja Morant and Dillon Brooks had 22 points each to help Memphis improve to 7-10 on the road with its highest scoring game of the season.

"We started off great, got stops when we needed them and nearly played a complete 48 minutes," Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said. "We're going to enjoy this one. The guys were (mad) how we let a big lead get away in Sacramento the other night and ended up losing that game."

Montrezl Harrell led the Clippers with 28 points. Kawhi Leonard and Lou Williams added 24 points each. The team appeared out of sorts from the start without George. He sat out with left hamstring tightness and Los Angeles



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

The Grizzlies' Ja Morant had 22 points in a 140-114 win over the Los Angeles Clippers Saturday.

clearly missed his defense.

The usually stoic Leonard complained to the referees, who hit him with a technical after the halftime buzzer. Coach Doc Rivers stayed on court discussing it and was unhappy about other calls in the game.

"I thought he had gotten fouled a couple times," Rivers said about

non-calls on Leonard. "The team with the most energy gets all the calls. We were complaining and they were running through us and playing hard."

The Grizzlies raced to an 18-point lead to open the game, highlighted by a 16-2 run that included four three-pointers — three coming on consecutive possessions.

"We showed up and thought we were going to win," Rivers said. "There are no excuses for the way we played."

By the time Williams made the Clippers' first three-pointer late in the second, cutting their deficit to seven, the Grizzlies had already connected on 10 threes. Los Angeles never got closer.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	8	.738	—
Toronto	24	12	.667	2½
Philadelphia	23	14	.622	4
Brooklyn	16	18	.471	9½
New York	10	25	.286	16
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	10	.714	—
Orlando	16	20	.444	9½
Charlotte	15	23	.395	11½
Washington	11	24	.314	14
Atlanta	8	28	.222	17½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	32	8	.865	—
Indiana	22	14	.611	9½
Chicago	13	23	.361	18½
Detroit	13	23	.361	18½
Cleveland	10	25	.286	21

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	11	.686	—
Dallas	22	13	.629	2
San Antonio	14	20	.412	9½
Memphis	14	22	.389	10½
New Orleans	17	24	.333	12½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	24	8	.686	—
Utah	23	12	.657	1
Oklahoma City	15	22	.405	7½
Portland	15	21	.417	9½
Minnesota	13	21	.382	10½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	28	7	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	25	12	.676	2½
Phoenix	14	21	.400	14
Sacramento	13	21	.382	14½
Golden State	9	28	.243	20

Friday's games

Boston 109, Atlanta 106
Orlando 105, Miami 85
Portland 122, Washington 103
Houston 118, Philadelphia 108
Phoenix 129, New York 112
L.A. Lakers 125, New Orleans 113

Saturday's games

Memphis 140, L.A. Clippers 114
Toronto 121, Brooklyn 102
Utah 109, Orlando 96
Atlanta 116, Indiana 111
Oklahoma City 121, Cleveland 106
Washington 128, Denver 114
Charlotte 123, Dallas 127
Detroit 111, Golden State 104
Milwaukee 127, San Antonio 118
New Orleans 117, Sacramento 115

Sunday's games

New York 114, L.A. Clippers
Portland at Miami
Cleveland at Golden State
Memphis at Phoenix
Detroit at L.A. Lakers

Monday's games

Boston at Washington
Brooklyn at Orlando
Indiana at Charlotte
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia
Denver at Atlanta
Utah at New Orleans
Chicago at Dallas
Milwaukee at San Antonio
Golden State at Sacramento

Tuesday's games

Detroit at Cleveland
Portland at Toronto
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Memphis
Sacramento at Phoenix
New York at L.A. Lakers

Leaders

Scoring

G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	27	13	58	30.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	33	7	208	100.2
Doncic, DAL	30	2	72	29.1
Drummond, DET	32	2	70	29.1
Davis, LAL	33	2	240	91.9
Garland, CLE	27	10	61	26.1
Lillard, POR	34	2	285	23.1
Brown, BOS	28	15	81	26.6
Leonard, LAC	27	23	58	26.3
Ingram, NOP	31	2	79	25.0
Bailey, TOR	27	10	64	23.7
James, LAL	34	3	326	12.8
Wiggins, MIN	26	15	74	24.1
Embiid, PHI	30	15	74	24.1
LaVine, CHI	35	2	77	23.6
Drummond, DET	33	2	77	23.6
Walker, BOS	30	22	118	67.5
McCollum, POR	26	19	68	25.2

Rebounds

G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Drummond, DET	33	14	78	52.0
Capela, HOU	29	13	29	41.2
Robert, ATL	23	10	63	42.4
Whiteside, POR	33	13	32	45.5
Sabonis, IND	30	8	35	44.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	36	8	32	44.8
Embiid, PHI	35	12	29	43.1
Adebayo, MIA	35	9	28	37.5
Low, CLE	29	27	27	30.5
Thompson, CLE	35	1	20	30.5

Assists

G	AST	AVG
James, LAL	39	7.4
Rubio, MEM	31	6.7
Doncic, DAL	30	26.6
Sabonis, IND	32	26.1
Simmons, PHI	32	26.1
Graham, CHA	37	28.7
Harden, HOU	34	25.7

Steals

G	STL	AVG
Simmons, PHI	37	7.2
Butler, MIA	31	6.3
Drummond, DET	36	7.3
Dunn, CHI	37	7.3
Kanizler, TOR	31	6.3
Harden, HOU	34	6.2
Leonard, LAC	28	5.1

Roundup

Antetokounmpo leads Bucks past Spurs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 19 of his 32 points in the third quarter to help the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks beat the San Antonio Spurs 127-118 on Saturday night.

Antetokounmpo repeatedly was fouled on his drives to the hoop and converted all 12 of his free-throw attempts in the second half.

"That's how Giannis is built," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It felt like they were going to foul him every time he drove it and test him at the free throw line. If they're trying to put him on the free throw line, I think Giannis will make them pay for it."

The Bucks improved to 32-5 with their fifth straight victory since a Christmas Day loss in Philadelphia. Eric Bledsoe added 21 points.

Khris Middleton scored 20 points for the Bucks and backup center Robin Lopez had 14 points in 19 minutes.

DeMar DeRozan led the Spurs with 26 points.

Raptors 121, Nets 102: Fred VanVleet had 29 points and 11 assists, Kyle Lowry scored 26 points and Toronto bounced back from its worst offensive performance

of the season to win at slumping Brooklyn.

Serge Ibaka finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors. They were held to season lows for points and shooting in their 84-76 loss in Miami, when they hit just 31.5% overall and went 6-for-42 from three-point range (14.3%). Toronto made 13 threes and beat the Nets for the 17th time in 18 meetings.

Celtics 111, Bulls 104: Jayson Tatum scored 28 points, Gordon Hayward added 24 and host Boston beat Chicago.

The Celtics hung on for their eighth win in nine games after a 16-point lead dwindled to three in the fourth quarter. Tatum hit a three-pointer with just over a minute left to bump the lead to seven, and the Atlantic Division leaders came out on top after rallying from 18 down to beat Atlanta on Friday night.

Hornets 123, Mavericks 120: Terry Rozier scored 29 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer in overtime after his tying basket in regulation, and Charlotte won at Dallas.

Luka Doncic set a Mavericks season record with his NBA-leading 10th triple-double, finishing with 39 points, 12 rebounds and

10 assists.

Devonte Graham had 27 points and 13 assists to help the Hornets win their second straight after a season-worst six-game losing streak.

Wizards 129, Nuggets 114: Ish Smith scored a career-high 32 points and Troy Brown added 25 and a career-high 14 rebounds in host Washington's victory over Denver.

After the Nuggets took a 101-99 lead with 9:33 left on Mason Plumlee's dunk, the Wizards scored the next 11 with the run eventually reaching 19-2 for a 118-103 lead with 4:48 remaining. Smith scored 11 points in that stretch, capping the surge with a three-pointer.

Jazz 109, Magic 96: Donovan Mitchell scored 32 points and Georges Niang added 15 off the bench to help Utah win at Orlando for its fifth straight victory.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 14 points, Emmanuel Mudiay scored 12 points and Joe Ingles had 11.

Terrence Ross led the Magic with 24 points. Nikola Vucevic had 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Thunder 121, Cavaliers 106: Dennis Schroder scored 22 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 20 and Oklahoma City won

at Cleveland to run its winning streak to five.

Danilo Gallinari added 19 points, hitting five three-pointers, and Steven Adams grabbed 16 rebounds.

Pistons 111, Warriors 104: Andre Drummond had 14 points and 18 rebounds before fouling out late, Derrick Rose scored 22 points off the bench and Detroit won at Golden State to snap a three-game losing streak.

Reserve guard Alec Burks contributed 27 points, seven rebounds and five assists in the Warriors' fourth straight defeat following a four-game winning streak. Draymond Green was ejected with 4:57 left in the third.

Hawks 116, Pacers 111: Trae Young scored 30 of his 41 points in the first half, Kevin Huertter added a season-high 26 points and host Atlanta beat Indiana after blowing a 22-point lead.

Domantas Sabonis had 25 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana.

Pelicans 117, Kings 115: JJ Redick's driving layup with 1.1 seconds remaining lifted New Orleans to a win at Sacramento.

Lonzo Ball had 24 points with 10 assists and Redick scored 18 as the Pelicans won for the fifth time in six games.

NHL

Roundup

Golden Knights rally past Blues

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — It's no secret the Vegas Golden Knights haven't fared well against teams with better records this season.

Saturday, with sheer resiliency, the Pacific Division leaders proved they can beat one of the league's best.

Chandler Stephenson scored in overtime and the Golden Knights rallied from an early three-goal deficit to beat the St. Louis Blues 5-4.

Vegas, which improved to 15-6-3 since Nov. 17 and leads the NHL with 33 points in that span, has laid the groundwork since dipping to sixth in the division, but had spent most of the season dominating subpar teams.

While the Golden Knights are 16-6-2 against teams currently outside the playoff picture, they entered Saturday 2-6-1 against the seven teams above them in the standings while being outscored 35-21.

Against all teams that currently would qualify for the playoffs, Vegas is 8-9-4 and has been outscored by a combined 75-60.

The Golden Knights have won four straight — three against teams that would be in the post-season right now — including Saturday's statement victory against the defending Stanley Cup champions.

"It wasn't too much of a statement the first 28 minutes, but after that we played real good hockey," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said. "You battle back, you never say never in this league."

Stephenson poke-checked the puck from St. Louis' Robert Thomas, then streaked in on a breakaway and beat Allen with a forehand-to-backhand combo 3:01 into overtime.

"Just kept my momentum from the backcheck and wheeled around the net," Stephenson said.

It was his fifth goal and eighth point in 16 games for the Golden Knights since being traded from Washington on Dec. 2.

The Golden Knights turned things around midway through the second period. Ryan Reaves, Paul Stastny, Nicolas Roy and Reilly Smith also scored for the Golden Knights to erase a 3-0 hole, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 27 saves.

Oilers 4, Bruins 1: Darnell Nurse and Gaetan Haas each had a second-period goal off poor Boston plays, and Connor McDavid added an insurance score for visiting Edmonton in the third after being stopped twice by Jaroslav Halak.

David Pastrnak scored his NHL-leading 31st goal for the Bruins, who have won just four times in their past 10 games.

Wild 3, Jets 2 (OT): Eric Staal poked home a rebound after a scramble in front of the Winnipeg goal, sending host Minnesota to a win.

Marcus Foligno and Luke



Golden Knights center Chandler Stephenson, left, scores the game-winner on Blues goaltender Jake Allen during overtime on Saturday in Las Vegas.

Kunin also scored for the Wild, who put up a season-high 44 shots on goal.

Minnesota was 0-for-5 on the power play in regulation before scoring on Blake Wheeler's slashing penalty in the extra session.

Sharks 3, Blue Jackets 2: Aaron Dell stopped 21 shots, and Barclay Goodrow, Evander Kane and Kevin Labanc scored for visiting San Jose. The Sharks won their second straight and are 3-1-1 in their past five.

The loss ended a 12-game point streak for Columbus (8-0-4).

Lightning 5, Senators 3: Tyler Johnson scored with 1:30 left in regulation, and visiting Tampa Bay got its sixth straight win.

Carter Verhaeghe, Kevin Stattenkirk, Brayden Point and Alex Killorn also scored for the Lightning.

After Johnson's tiebreaking goal, the final minute of play had the home fans on their feet as many believed Ottawa had tied the score again, but the goal was called off because Colin White deliberately head-butted the puck past Curtis McElhinney.

Penguins 3, Canadiens 2 (OT): Brandon Tanev scored in overtime and visiting Pittsburgh rallied to beat Montreal.

Bryan Rust tied it with a goal in the third period and Zach Aston-Reese also scored for the Penguins.

Artturi Lehkonen scored both goals for the Canadiens, who dropped their fifth straight.

Canucks 2, Rangers 1: Tyler Myers scored with 1:29 left in the third period and host Vancouver got its seventh straight win.

Bo Horvat fed Myers a pass and he scored on a floating shot from just inside the blue line.

The Canucks have their lon-

gest winning streak since also winning seven straight Dec. 1-14, 2013.

Avalanche 5, Devils 2: Mikko Rantanen scored three goals, Nathan MacKinnon had two assists and visiting Colorado beat New Jersey.

Ian Cole and Pierre-Edouard Bellemare each had a goal and an assist for the Avalanche. Blake Coleman and Jesper Boqvist scored for the Devils, who ended a season-best three-game winning streak.

Maple Leafs 3, Islanders 0: Michael Hutchinson stopped 33 shots for his first shutout in nearly a year, and host Toronto pushed its point streak to 10 games.

Pierre Engvall, Auston Matthews and Zach Hyman scored for the Maple Leafs, who are 9-0-1 during their streak.

Semyon Varlamov had 20 saves for the Islanders, losers of five of their last seven (2-4-1).

Coyotes 6, Flyers 2: Clayton Keller scored twice, including one during a three-goal first period by host Arizona in a romp over Philadelphia.

The Coyotes set a season high for goals but also lost goalie Antti Raanta to a lower-body injury. Raanta stopped all 17 shots before exiting during the second intermission. Adin Hill relieved and stopped 10 of 12 shots.

Brad Richardson, Jordan Oesterle and Keller scored in a 4-minute span in the first in Arizona's third straight win.

Predators 4, Kings 1: Rocco Grimaldi and Craig Smith each had a goal and an assist to help visiting Nashville end a three-game losing streak.

Roman Josi had two assists to extend his point streak to a career-high nine games, tying Shea

Weber for the longest in franchise history by a defenseman.

Sabres 3, Panthers 2: Sam Reinhart had a goal and an assist, and Conor Sheary and Henri Jokiharju also scored for host Buffalo in its second straight win.

Mike Matheson and Evgenii Dadonov scored for Florida, and Chris Driedger stopped all 11 shots he faced after replacing Sergei Bobrovsky in the second period.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
Boston	43	26	11	59	140	111			
Toronto	43	24	14	53	155	135			
Tampa Bay	40	23	17	50	144	124			
Florida	41	21	15	5	147	140			
Buffalo	40	23	17	46	127	136			
Ottawa	42	18	17	7	43	134	36		
Detroit	42	16	21	3	37	117	143		
	42	10	28	3	23	80	161		

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	45	25	15	61	150	125
Pittsburgh	41	25	11	55	141	109
N.Y. Islanders	40	25	13	53	115	106
Carolina	41	24	15	50	139	116
Philadelphia	42	22	15	49	133	129
Columbus	42	19	15	46	109	116
N.Y. Rangers	41	19	18	4	133	138
New Jersey	41	15	20	6	36	106

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
St. Louis	43	26	10	7	59	135	119		
Colorado	43	25	13	4	54	156	124		
Dallas	42	24	14	4	52	115	104		
Winnipeg	42	22	16	4	48	130	129		
Minnesota	42	20	17	5	45	129	139		
Nashville	40	19	15	6	44	136	132		
Chicago	42	16	18	6	42	123	139		

Pacific Division

Vegas	45	24	15	6	54	144	133
Arizona	44	24	16	4	52	128	112
Vancouver	42	23	15	4	50	141	125
Edmonton	44	22	17	5	49	131	138
Calgary	43	21	17	5	47	118	130
San Jose	43	19	21	3	41	115	143
Los Angeles	43	17	22	4	38	110	136
Anaheim	41	16	20	5	37	105	128

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

Edmonton 4, Boston 1
Buffalo 3, Florida 2
San Jose 3, Columbus 2
Minnesota 3, Winnipeg 2, OT
Vegas 5, St. Louis 4, OT
Pittsburgh 3, Montreal 2, OT
Colorado 5, New Jersey 2
Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 3
Toronto 3, N.Y. Islanders 0
Arizona 6, Philadelphia 2
Detroit 4, N.Y. Rangers 1
Nashville 4, Los Angeles 1
San Jose 4 at Washington
Tampa Bay 4 at Carolina
Florida 4 at Pittsburgh
Calgary 4 at Minnesota
Detroit 4 at Chicago
Nashville 4 at Anaheim

Sunday's games

Winnipeg 4 at Montreal
St. Louis 4 at N.Y. Islanders
Edmonton 4 at Toronto
Columbus 4 at Los Angeles
Philadelphia 4 at Carolina
Arizona 4 at Florida
N.Y. Islanders 4 at New Jersey
Colorado 4 at Tampa Bay
Ottawa 4 at Washington
Montreal 4 at Detroit
San Jose 4 at N.Y. Rangers
Boston 4 at Nashville
San Jose 4 at St. Louis
Calgary 4 at Chicago
Columbus 4 at Anaheim
Pittsburgh 4 at Vegas

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kansas mounts rally, overtakes West Virginia

By GARY BEDORE
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas' basketball team, for the 29th straight season, has opened conference play with a victory.

Udoka Azubuike scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds (with six blocks) and Devon Dotson added 16 points with four steals as the No. 3-ranked Jayhawks rallied from a 10-point first-half deficit to defeat No. 16 West Virginia, 60-53, on Saturday afternoon at Allen Fieldhouse.

Marcus Garrett contributed 12 points with six assists for Kansas (11-2). Ochai Agbaji had seven points and Christian Braun, who started and played the entire second half, tallied six points with five boards as Kansas stretched

its winning streak in Big 12 (and before that Big Eight) openers to 29 games. The Jayhawks' last loss in a league opener was 88-82 at Oklahoma on Jan. 8, 1991.

Freshman big man Oscar Tshiebwe scored 17 points with 17 rebounds for the Mountaineers — he had 15 points and 10 boards the first half. A week ago West Virginia (11-2) defeated No. 2 Ohio State in Cleveland.

The Jayhawks went 19-for-30 from the line and missed 14 of 17 threes; WVU was 12-for-22 from the line and 3-for-14 from three-point range.

"We'll get a lot better," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We've got to get a lot better. It'll be more fun getting better with this under our belt," he added.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

West Virginia's Oscar Tshiebwe, left, steals the ball from Kansas' Udoka Azubuike. The No. 3 Jayhawks rallied for a 60-53 defeat of the No. 16 Mountaineers Saturday in Lawrence, Kan.

Kansas held a 52-44 lead with 3:11 to play only to see the Mountaineers cut the gap to 52-49 with at 1:18 left. Garrett responded with a bucket to up the lead to five. After the teams traded free throws, Dotson hit a pair to make it 58-51 with 29 seconds left.

Tshiebwe, a 6-9 freshman from Democratic Republic of the Congo, scored 15 points and grabbed 10 boards while playing 17 minutes the first half to pace West Virginia to a 30-24 halftime advantage. He hit six of eight shots in the first half, his team-

mates six of 26. Jordan McCabe chipped in five points in a half in which Kansas hit two of 11 of its threes and six of 13 free throws.

Dotson scored 12 points the initial half on 5-for-9 shooting. His teammates were 3-for-13 from the field.

Roundup

Tillie helps No. 1 Gonzaga slip past Pepperdine

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Top-ranked Gonzaga went undefeated through the West Coast Conference last season, but the road looks a little tougher this year.

For the second league game in a row, Gonzaga needed to come back to beat a league rival nestled near the bottom of the standings.

Killian Tillie scored 20 points and blocked a potential tying shot in the closing seconds to help Gonzaga beat Pepperdine 75-70 for its 32nd consecutive home win.

Filip Petrushe scored 16 points and Joel Ayayi had 12 for Gonzaga (16-1, 2-0 West Coast). The Bulldogs have the longest home winning streak in the country. They have won eight consecutive overall since losing to Michigan.

But coach Mark Few was mostly full of criticism for his team after the game.

"We turned the ball over way, too much," Few said about his team's 17 turnovers. "That was the story tonight."

"We were trying too hard on the offensive end," Few added, after his team shot 49% for the game and made just five of 18 from three-point range.

But he praised Tillie for "an unbelievably courageous effort. He really helped us tonight with his energy."

Tillie hit nine of 16 from the floor and added four rebounds and four assists, plus the key blocked shot on Pepperdine leading scorer Colbey Ross.

No. 2 Duke 95, Miami 62: Vernon Carey Jr. scored 24 points in 25 minutes playing against his hometown team for the first time, and the Blue Devils shot a season-high 60% to win at the Hurricanes.

It was Miami's most lopsided home loss in Jim Larranaga's nine seasons as coach.

Carey shot 11-for-14, and every basket



YOUNG KWAN/AP

Gonzaga forward Killian Tillie, left, dunks over Pepperdine guard Skylar Chavez. Tillie had 20 points in his team's 75-70 win Saturday in Spokane, Wash.

drew cheers from a substantial portion of the less-than-capacity crowd.

No. 4 Oregon 69, Utah 64: Payton Pritchard scored 19 points for the visiting Ducks, and Will Richardson and Chris Duarte each had 14.

Pritchard drew most of the defensive attention as usual so Oregon ended up moving the ball to Shakur Juiston and Chandler Lawson. They each had a pair of layups to erase the Utes' late lead and clinch the game for Oregon (12-3, 1-1 Pac-12).

No. 6 Baylor 59, Texas 44: MacIco

Teague matched his season high with 21 points, and the host earned their 10th straight win.

After building a 36-23 halftime lead, Baylor (11-1, 1-0 Big 12) missed 18 of its first 20 shots in the second half before Matthew Mayer's short jumper that made it 47-37 with 7½ minutes left.

No. 18 Florida State 78, No. 7 Louisville 65: M.J. Walker scored 23 points to help the Seminoles to the road win.

FSU (13-2, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) also got a strong performance from Trent Forrest, who had 20 points on 9-of-11 shooting. Devin Vassell scored 14, and Malik Osbourne finished with seven points and nine rebounds.

No. 8 Auburn 60, Mississippi State 68: J'Von McCormick scored a career-high 28 points to help the Tigers win on the road in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

Samir Doughty had 15 points for the Tigers (13-0, 1-0), and Isaac Okoro finished with 14. McCormick went 9-for-17 from the field and 8-for-11 at the line.

Georgia 65, No. 9 Memphis 62: Rayshaun Hammonds scored 15 points, Anthony Edwards had 13 and the visiting Bulldogs stopped the Tigers' 10-game winning streak.

Precious Achiuwa led Memphis (12-2) with 20 points and 15 rebounds.

Marquette 71, No. 10 Villanova 60: Markus Howard scored 29 points, Kobu McEwen had 22 and the Golden Eagles snapped Villanova's six-game win streak.

Howard was 7-for-20 from the field and 12-for-12 at the line. He also had eight rebounds for the Golden Eagles.

No. 11 Butler 71, Creighton 57: Kamar Baldwin scored each of his 20 points in the second half and the host Bulldogs earned their fifth straight win.

No. 13 San Diego State 77, Utah State 68: Malachi Flynn scored 22 points, Matt Mitchell added 19 and the visiting Aztecs beat the Aggies to improve to 15-0.

No. 15 Maryland 75, Indiana 59: Jalen Smith scored 19 points to help the host Terrapins return to form.

Aaron Wiggins and Anthony Cowan Jr. had 13 apiece Maryland (12-2, 2-1 Big Ten), who climbed to No. 3 in mid-December before losing successive games to Penn State and Seton Hall. An unimpressive win over Bryant followed on Dec. 29, but the Terrapins opened the New Year in dominant fashion against the Hoosiers (11-3, 1-2).

No. 17 Kentucky 71, Missouri 59: Immanuel Quickley scored a career-high 23 points, Nick Richards had 21 and the host Wildcats beat the Tigers in the Southeastern Conference opener for both schools.

No. 19 Virginia 65, Virginia Tech 39: Kihei Clark scored a career-best 18 points, Braxton Key also had 18 and the host Cavaliers dominated with defense.

No. 21 Penn State 89, No. 23 Iowa 86: Isaiah Brockington scored 23 points to lead the Nittany Lions to their fifth straight win. Lamar Stevens and Myreon Jones each scored 16 points for Penn State (12-2, 2-1 Big Ten), playing in Philadelphia.

No. 22 Texas Tech 85, Oklahoma State 50: Freshman Jahmi'us Ramsey made four three-pointers and scored 18 points, helping the host Red Raiders pulled away for the win in their Big 12 opener.

No. 24 Wichita State 74, Mississippi 54: Erik Stevenson scored a career-high 29 points to help the host Shockers to the victory.

No. 25 Arizona 75, Arizona State 47: Zeke Nnaji had 17 points and 11 rebounds, helping the host Wildcats open the Pac-12 season with an overpowering win over the rival Sun Devils.

NFL

Panthers RB McCaffrey a double All-Pro pick

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Christian McCaffrey's versatility and superb statistics helped him to a rare double: The Carolina Panthers running back made The Associated Press NFL All-Pro Team at two positions.

McCaffrey rushed for 1,387 yards and 15 touchdowns while catching a phenomenal 116 passes for 1,005 yards and four TDs. He became the third player in NFL history to finish with 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving in the same season, joining Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk and Roger Craig, who is on the senior ballot for the Hall this year.

The achievement so impressed the 50 members of a nationwide media panel who regularly cover the NFL that McCaffrey was voted the first-team running back and the top flex player. The flex position was created in 2016 to reward players who epitomize the way offense is now played in pro football. Not one fits that description better than McCaffrey, whose terrific season came for a 5-11 team.

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback

Lamar Jackson, Baltimore

Running Back

Christian McCaffrey, Carolina

Flex

Christian McCaffrey, Carolina

Tight End

George Kittle, San Francisco

Wide Receivers

Michael Thomas, New Orleans

DeAndre Hopkins, Houston

Left Tackle

Ronnie Stanley, Baltimore

Right Tackle

Ryan Ramczyk, New Orleans

Left Guard

Quenton Nelson, Indianapolis

Right Guard

Zack Martin, Dallas

Center

Jason Kelce, Philadelphia

DEFENSE

Edge Rushers

Chandler Jones, Arizona

T.J. Watt, Pittsburgh

Interior Linemen

Aaron Donald, Los Angeles Rams

Cam Heyward, Pittsburgh

Linebackers

Bobby Wagner, Seattle

Demario Davis, New Orleans

Eric Kendricks, Minnesota

Cornerbacks

Stephon Gilmore, New England

Tre'Davious White, Buffalo

Safeties

Jamal Adams, New York Jets

Minkah Fitzpatrick, Pittsburgh

Defensive Back

Marcus Peters, Baltimore

Tyrann Mathieu, Kansas City

Marlon Humphrey, Baltimore

SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker

Justin Tucker, Baltimore

Punter

Brett Kern, Tennessee

Kick Returner

Cordarrelle Patterson, Chicago

Punt Returner

Deonte Harris, New Orleans

Special Teamer

Matthew Slater, New England

Pats' Gilmore, Saints' Thomas unanimous selections

"It means a lot," said McCaffrey, a third-year pro. "It is a big honor and that is something that you don't work hard for it, but when it comes you are really grateful and appreciative."

McCaffrey's achievement was complemented by the unanimous selections of New Orleans receiver Michael Thomas and New England cornerback Stephon Gilmore. It's the second straight season both made the squad, Thomas doing it with an NFL-record 149 catches and Gilmore anchoring the league's top-ranked defense.

Ravens sensation Lamar Jackson, who in his second season led Baltimore to a league-best 14-2 mark, was chosen as quarterback. Jackson and McCaffrey were among 14 first-time All-Pro.

Rams safety Eric Weddle, a former Raven, witnessed the jukes and jaunts of Jackson firsthand in a 45-6 Ravens romp.

"When you get on the field and you get to the speed of what they run, it's tough," said Weddle, a former All-Pro. "I mean, some

of the plays I didn't know who had the ball because they run it so efficiently. (Jackson) is one of a kind; he's pretty special."

This special class includes several multiple All-Pro: Rams DT Aaron Donald and Seahawks LB Bobby Wagner, each for a fifth time; Cowboys right guard Zack Martin and Ravens kicker Justin Tucker for a fourth time.

Bears kick returner Cordarrelle Patterson made his third All-Pro roster, as did Eagles center Jason Kelce and Texans receiver DeAndre Hopkins.

All-Pro for the second time included Thomas, Gilmore, Cardinals edge rusher Chandler Jones, Steelers DT Cam Heyward, Patriots special teamer Matthew Slater, Colts left guard Quenton Nelson, and Ravens defensive back Marcus Peters, who shared that spot with the teammate Marlon Humphrey and the Chiefs' Tyrann Mathieu (second appearance).

Thomas, Gilmore, Nelson, Hopkins, Kelce,

Martin, Donald, Wagner and Tucker repeated from 2018.

The other newcomers were Humphrey; 49ers tight end George Kittle; Ravens left tackle Ronnie Stanley; Saints right tackle Ryan Ramczyk; Steelers edge rusher T.J. Watt; Saints linebacker Demario Davis; Vikings LB Eric Kendricks; Bills cornerback Tre'Davious White; safeties Jamal Adams of the Jets and Minkah Fitzpatrick of the Steelers; Titans punter Brett Kern; and Saints punt returner Deonte Harris, the only rookie on the team.

Ramczyk once played Division III college ball. Now look at him.

"It's just pretty crazy that I was at a little D-3 school and I'm like, 'If I'm going to play this game, I'm going to play to be the best I possibly can be,'" he said, adding the All-Pro designation is "pretty awesome."

Not surprisingly, Baltimore led the All-Pro Team with five selections, while New Orleans had four and Pittsburgh each had three. There were 16 AFC players and 13 from the NFC.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback

Russell Wilson, Seattle

Running Back

Derrick Henry, Tennessee

Flex

Derrick Henry, Tennessee

Tight End

Travis Kelce, Kansas City

Wide Receivers

Julio Jones, Atlanta

Chris Godwin, Tampa Bay

Left Tackle

David Bakhtiari, Green Bay

Right Tackle

Mitchell Schwartz, Kansas City

Left Guard

Joel Bitonio, Cleveland

Joe Thuney, New England

Right Guard

Marshal Yanda, Baltimore

Center

Rodney Hudson, Oakland

DEFENSE

Edge Rushers

Shaq Barrett, Tampa Bay

Cameron Jordan, New Orleans

Interior Linemen

Grady Jarrett, Atlanta

DeForest Buckner, San Francisco

Linebackers

Luke Kuechly, Carolina

Darius Leonard, Indianapolis

T.J. Watt, Pittsburgh

Cornerbacks

Richard Sherman, San Francisco

Marcus Peters, Baltimore

Safeties

Justin Simmons, Denver

Tyrann Mathieu, Kansas City

SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker

Josh Lambo, Jacksonville

Punter

Tress Way, Washington

Kick Returner

Necole Hardman, Kansas City

Punt Returner

Dontae Johnson, Pittsburgh

Special Teamer

Cordarrelle Patterson, Chicago

J.T. Gray, New Orleans



NFL PLAYOFFS

Brady: Retirement unlikely after loss

Patriots quarterback will be free agent

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady walked off the field at the end of his 20th NFL season and said he plans to be back for another, when he will be 43 years old.

If not in New England, somewhere else.

The Patriots quarterback said after a season-ending 20-13 loss to the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night that he has no plans to retire, putting owner Robert Kraft and coach Bill Belichick on the clock to either re-sign him or watch the franchise's greatest player suit up somewhere else.

"I would say it's pretty unlikely, hopefully unlikely" that he would retire, Brady told reporters. "I love playing football, I love playing for this team. I've loved playing for this team for two decades and winning a lot of games. I don't know what it looks like moving forward."

Brady completed 20 of 37 passes for 209 yards with no touchdowns, throwing a game-clinching interception that was returned for a touchdown. That left him with a lower quarterback rating than Ryan Tannehill, who threw for a total of 72 yards in his first career playoff appearance.

It was the earliest postseason exit for Brady and the Patriots in a decade.

"I think we're all running out of time and chances, every year that goes by," said Brady, who was without a touchdown pass for the second consecutive postseason game — and just the fourth time since 2001. "I don't think I'm the

only one in that category."

A six-time Super Bowl champion, four-time Most Valuable Player of the NFL title game and three-time winner of the league MVP, Brady is not under contract for next season. Although he has said he wants to play until he's 45, he is coming off perhaps the worst (non-injury) season of his career.

"Who knows what the future holds? We'll leave it at that," Brady said. "I love the Patriots. It's the greatest organization. Playing for Mr. Kraft all these years, and for coach Belichick, there's nobody who's had a better career than me, just being with them."

Brady threw for 4,057 yards and 24 touchdowns this season, with eight interceptions. But he completed fewer than 56% of his passes six times in the final eight games of the year, including a season-ending loss to a four-win Miami team that cost the Patriots a first-round bye and then the wild-card loss to the Titans.

Still, the love from New England fans has never waned.

A fan in the front row hung a banner reading, "Please Stay Tommy." The rest of the crowd for what could be the last home game of his Patriots career showed its love by chanting his name a half-dozen times throughout the night.

"I don't want to get too much into the future and stuff," Brady said. "I just don't know what's going to happen and I'm not going to predict it."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick refused to say whether he thought Brady would be back. Defensive captain Devin McCourty said it's difficult to predict what will happen in the offseason, when football decisions are strictly about business.

"It's hard to imagine Tom not playing football," McCourty said. "It's hard to imagine him not playing here."



Brady



STEVEN SENNA/AP

The Titans' Derrick Henry lands out of bounds after running the ball during the first half of Saturday's 20-13 wild-card playoff game victory over the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass.

Upset: Titans RB Henry pounds Patriots

FROM BACK PAGE

environment," Henry said on his 26th birthday. "Credit to my team. I'm just happy we were able to advance.

"We were just locked in. That was our mindset, just coming in here doing what we needed to do in all three phases, stay locked in no matter what happens in the game, and I feel like we did that."

As that dense fog that shrouded Gillette Stadium for the first half dissipated, the Patriots, who made the last three Super Bowls and won two, stalled repeatedly with the ball. They no longer were the bullies on the block — Henry was.

As for this defeat, the Patriots' fourth as a wild card, Brady noted: "They kind of stopped us in the first half and the second half and we couldn't get the job done."

There had been no scoring in the second half when All-Pro Brett Kern's 58-yard punt that took up 10 of the final 25 seconds rolled down at the New England 1. Brady then was picked by former Patriot Logan Ryan for a 9-yard touchdown to finish off the Patriots (12-5), who at one point were 8-0.

The game's first three possessions wound up as three long scoring drives. A 29-yard screen pass to James White set up Nick Folk's 36-yard field goal, but Tennessee answered with a 75-yard march built around Henry. He had no role on the touchdown, Tannehill's pass to a Harvard man, tight end Anthony Firkser that made it 7-3.

Firkser is the first player from Harvard to score a playoff TD. New England counterpunched with its own 75-yard drive, taking temporary control of the game by victimizing Tennessee's defense on the outside. The Titans looked slow trying to protect the flanks as Sony Michel broke off a 25-yard run and White had a 14-yarder.

Julian Edelman finished it with

Titans 20, Patriots 13

Tennessee	7	7	0	6-20
New England	3	10	0	0-13

NE—Fg Folk 36, 12:37.
Ten—Firkser 12 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 5:39.

Second Quarter
NE—Edelman 5 run (Folk kick), 14:57.
NE—Fg Folk 21, 2:16.

Fourth Quarter
Ten—Ryan 9 interception return (run failed), 9:09.
A—56-578.

	Ten	NE
First downs	19	18
Total Net Yards	272	307
Rushes-yards	40-201	22-98
Passing		209
Punt Returns	0-0	1-23
Kicked Returns	2-40	1-10
Interceptions Ret.	1-9	1-0
Comp-Att-Int.	9-16-1	29-37-1
Sacks	6-45-8	5-46-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-25	3-28
Time of Possession	31:09	28:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tennessee, Henry 34-182, Tannehill 4-11, Lewis 2-5. New England, Michel 14-61, White 1-14, Edelman 2-12, Henry 1-7, Burhead 3-4, Roberts 1-0.

PASSING—Tennessee, Tannehill 8-15-172, Mariota 1-1-0-4. New England, Brady 20-37-1-209.

RECEIVING—Tennessee, Firkser 2-23, Pruitt 2-4, Henry 1-22, Smith 1-9, Lewis 1-8, Sharpe 1-6, A. Brown 1-4. New England, White 5-62, Watson 3-38, Burhead 3-32, Edelman 3-30, Henry 2-21, Michel 2-9, Sarin 1-11, Durston 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

the first rushing touchdown of his 11 pro seasons, a 5-yard dash to the unprotected left side of the Tennessee D.

New England appeared primed for another touchdown after Mohamed Sanu's 14-yard punt return set up the Patriots at the Titans 47, and they steadily drove to first-and-goal at the 1.

All they got was Folk's 21-yard field goal as three runs failed. It was the 13th time the Patriots had first-and-goal at the 1 in a playoff game in the Brady era and the first time they failed to get a TD on the drive.

Tannehill led the NFL with a career-best 117.5 passer rating and by averaging 9.6 yards per pass attempt. But he didn't do a whole lot Saturday night in his first postseason game: 8-for-15 for 72 yards. His awful decision to put the ball up for grabs on the first play of the fourth quarter resulted in Duron Harmon's interception.

But New England's spotty attack flopped and never revived.

Birthday boy: Henry celebrated his birthday by getting the most rushing yards against a Bill Belichick-coached Patriots team in the playoffs. He set an early tone by rushing for 49 of the Titans' 75 yards on their opening touchdown drive. On the Titans' second 75-yard TD march, all Henry did was gain every yard: 22 on a screen pass and 53 rushing, including a 1-yard drive into the end zone for a 14-13 halftime lead. Those were Tennessee's first points in the final two minutes of the opening half since Week 8.

"When you can run it when the other team knows you're gonna run it, that says a lot about your running game," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said.

Henry led the NFL in rushing this season with 1,540 yards in 15 games, the fourth-most rushing yards in franchise history. He also ran for 16 TDs, second most in team history.

Belichick discipline: Vrabel, a star linebacker for New England who won three Super Bowl rings,



Vrabel

is a rare member of the Belichick coaching tree to defeat the Patriots' long-time coach head to head in the playoffs. Another of those, Houston's Bill O'Brien, also did it this season — and the Texans advanced to the divisional round earlier Saturday by beating Buffalo in overtime.

"I told 'em that to win the game, you're going to have to be mentally and physically exhausted," Vrabel said. "You're going to get rubbed defensively. There's gonna be gadgets. They're going to force you to think. ...

"We didn't hand them anything. They feast on bad football.

"I don't think our guys spend a lot of time looking at those banners."



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Patriots fans stand by a sign supporting quarterback Tom Brady during Saturday's wild-card playoff game in Foxborough, Mass. Brady's contract expires at the end of the season.

SPORTS



Starting strong
Kansas wins 29th straight
conference opener » **Page 20**

NFL PLAYOFFS



Early exit for Patriots

Titans upset defending champs in wild-card round

By **BARRY WILNER**
Associated Press

When the eerie Foxborough fog lifted, it became clear that New England's reign atop the NFL was ending.
Derrick Henry ensured that with the kind of dominating playoff performance usually reserved for Tom Brady and the Patriots.

Henry rushed for 182 yards and a touchdown while Tennessee's defense stymied Brady and perhaps ended his championship-filled New England career with a 20-13 wild-card victory Saturday night.

Brady vows to be back on an NFL field next season, but his contract with the Patriots is done.

"I love the Patriots," the 42-year Brady said, adding about leaving the game after 20 seasons: "I would say it's pretty unlikely, hopefully unlikely. I love playing football. I don't know what it looks like moving forward."

Doing the most moving forward Saturday night was Henry, who had a total of 184 yards rushing in two playoff games two years ago. He nearly got that against the league's top-ranked defense in boosting the Titans (10-7) into the divisional round at No. 1 seed Baltimore.

"It's a great win against a great team in a hostile

SEE UPSET ON PAGE 22

Top: New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) walks to the sideline with teammates after throwing an interception in the fourth quarter of Saturday's wild-card game against the Tennessee Titans in Foxborough, Mass. **Left:** Titans running back Derrick Henry rushed for 182 yards and a touchdown in Tennessee's 20-13 victory.

CHARLES KRUPA/AP

More NFL coverage inside:

■ Watson, Texans outlast Bills in OT thriller, Page 23 ■ Brady: Retirement 'unlikely', Page 22

